

Opening Remarks by Chairman Shukuri
for the JITTI USA Civil Aviation Symposium held in Washington DC
on October 8th, 2019

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

I am Masafumi Shukuri, Chairman of the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute and the Japan International Transport and Tourism Institute, USA. As some of you may be aware, our organization's name was recently amended in August in order to show that tourism is included in our activities. We thank you for your continued support as we proceed in our efforts to conduct research on international transport and tourism issues, and disseminate information to the public through publications and events such as the one today.

As a host of this symposium, I welcome you all here today to the 2019 Civil Aviation Symposium, "The Future of Civil Aviation in the Asia Pacific Region". I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Honorable Shinsuke Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan to the United States, and the Honorable Hugo Yon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, for their participation and the generosity of

their time.

In addition, I would like to express thanks to the three, distinguished keynote speakers, David Short, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation; Jotaro Horiuchi, Assistant Vice-Minister for International Aviation at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan; and Akihiko Tamura, President and CEO of Narita International Airport Corporation. I also extend my appreciation for the US and Japanese airline representatives, who despite their busy schedules, are participating as panelists in the panel discussion. They will be introduced later in the program.

With regard to today's theme of civil aviation in the Asia Pacific, competition among airlines and airports has been drastically increasing. Air passenger transport in the region reached 1.6 billion passengers in 2018, and is expected to grow further in the future.

Regarding civil aviation and airport policies in Japan, with the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games being held in the near future, the functionality of Tokyo metropolitan airports has been enhanced through the addition of landing slots at both Haneda and Narita Airport, and other policies are currently being implemented,

in order to address increasing aviation demands. In particular, regarding Haneda Airport, an aviation agreement was reached in negotiations between the US and Japan this August. I believe that the outcome of the agreement, which allocated 24 out of the 50 new flights to air routes between the US and Japan, more than any other country, clearly shows that for Japan there is a vital importance to have aviation transport with the US.

The further expansion of aviation transport between the US and Japan will surely be important for the development of economic activities and people to people exchanges between our two countries. However, I also strongly believe that it is an essential and effective tool to strengthen the crucial alliance that is the US - Japan relationship, and to improve international security, considering changes in recent global power dynamics.

It is vital that we consider what kind of role the American and Japanese aviation sectors should play in the Asia Pacific region, and how they can contribute to even further development of relations between the US and Japan. Therefore, I look forward to hearing the speakers and panelists talk about concerns and issues to watch in our shared region, and I believe that they will produce beneficial suggestions for the direction that civil aviation should take in the

Asia Pacific region, and further strengthen the relationship between the US and Japan.

Thank you very much.