

International Civil Aviation Symposium
“The Future of Civil Aviation in the Asia-Pacific Region”
Mr.Cavanaugh’s speech

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the kind invitation to join today’s discussion.

I would like to thank Chairman Masafumi Shukuri and the entire JTTRI team for hosting this important event.

It is an honor to be here with Vice Minister Fuji and Assistant Vice Minister Horiuchi and all the distinguished guests from the research community. I am proud that our U.S. airlines are represented here, as are my Washington, DC colleagues: Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Transportation Affairs Hugo Yon, who so ably led our negotiating team in the Haneda discussions, and from the Department of Transportation, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs David Short. David’s leadership across the spectrum has been very important.

Let me share just two brief thoughts with you this afternoon:

1—Aviation is important. Of course, as technical experts who have spent your careers devoted to airplanes, airports, and airlines, you know that. But the rest of us know this as well. Progress in aviation is a key to economic growth and opportunity, jobs, people-to-people exchanges and the overall connectivity between communities. This is more important than ever before. And as we look to the future, we should do all we can to support our aviation industries and our travelling public. We should, for example, do what we can to make sure that Japan becomes an even more important transpacific transportation hub. There is competition from elsewhere.

2—Relationships are important. When people discuss the U.S.- Japan relationship, often the talk turns to the close relationship between

President Trump and Prime Minister Abe. Of course, this is important, and makes all our jobs easier.

I would argue, however, that just as important, or perhaps more important, are all the close links between Japan and the United States at all levels. Especially at working levels. We have nurtured these relationships, built on trust and mutual respect, for decades.

Many of you in this room have been working together for decades - - - arguing together for decades too!

You are the reason this relationship works. To some, our topics might be considered arcane and even boring. Aviation is full of rules, regulations, and government oversight. That does sound boring. But nothing is boring about guaranteeing the safety and security of millions of travelers every day, creating economic opportunities and new connections for our communities.

Your successes contribute a great deal to the U.S.-Japan relationship. And these successes will be the reason that the United States and Japan working together will have a leading voice in defining the future of aviation. Our team at the U.S. Embassy stands ready to support you however we can.

With that, let me turn to our Hugo Yon, our Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation Affairs who has joined us from Washington D.C.

Thank you very much.