

International Civil Aviation Symposium
“The Future of Civil Aviation in the Asia-Pacific Region”
Chairman Shukuri’s speech

Hello everyone. I am Masafumi Shukuri, Chairman of the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute (JTTRI). Thank you very much for attending our International Civil Aviation Symposium, subtitled “The Future of Civil Aviation in the Asia-Pacific Region”. As you saw from the video at the beginning of our event, a symposium sharing today’s topic was held in Washington, D.C. on October 8th. We are pleased to host this corresponding symposium in Tokyo to continue the discussion held at the previous event.

First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Hugo Yon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation Affairs at the US Department of State, Mr. Michael Cavanaugh, Acting Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the US Embassy in Japan, and Mr. Naoki Fujii, Vice Minister for Transport and International Affairs at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, for attending this symposium and giving honorable guest remarks despite their busy schedules.

I would like to also offer thanks to Mr. David Short, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs at the US Department of Transportation, Mr. Jotaro Horiuchi, Assistant Vice Minister for International Aviation of the Minister’s Secretariat at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, and Mr. Akihiko Tamura, President and CEO of Narita International Airport Corporation for giving keynote speeches. In addition, I thank the five representatives of Japanese and US airlines who will be participating in the panel discussion later in the program. Many of today’s speakers attended the symposium in Washington, DC, and I would like to express my special thanks to those five individuals who came all the way from the United States.

Now then, despite the progressive increases of air passenger transport in the Asia-Pacific region over the past 20 years, including the 1.6 billion passengers that traveled in 2018, according to last year’s forecast by IATA, it is expected that this region will continue to grow at the highest rate globally, approximately 4.8% annually. As a result, it is estimated that an astounding 3.9 billion passengers will travel in the region in 2037.

As all of us here are aware, competition between airlines and airports has become fierce, with many responding through such upgrades as expanding LCC businesses, using new aircraft, implementing Joint Ventures, creating new airports and runways, etc. in order to capture such vigorous demand for air travel in the Asia-Pacific region.

In Japan, ahead of next year’s Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, in addition to increasing the number of slots at Haneda and Narita Airports, a third runway is planned at Narita Airport in order to meet the increasing demand for aviation in the future. In addition, efforts are being made to strengthen the functions of major domestic airports,

such as the construction of a second runway at Fukuoka Airport and Naha Airport. At some airports such as Sendai Airport and Fukuoka Airport, management and services are strengthened through concessions. For Haneda Airport in particular, 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 slots to air routes between the US and Japan, more than any other country, clearly shows that for Japan there is a vital importance to create a close connection and to strengthen an aviation transport network 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. At the same time, the expansion of air transportation that connects South East Asia and North America has great significance for the development of the Asia-Pacific region. I also strongly believe that it is an essential and effective tool to strengthen the crucial alliance that is the US - Japan relationship, considering changes in recent global power dynamics.

At today's symposium held in Tokyo, I look forward to further discourse on the future prospects of Japanese and US airlines and the strategies they are working on, or should be working on. We would also like to deepen the discussion on how Japan and the US can contribute to the development of this important region.

By the way, taking this opportunity, I would like to announce that Mr. Tetsuya Okuda was appointed the Executive Director of JTTRI and the President of Japan International Transport and Tourism Institute, USA from November 6th. Next year, JTTRI plans to establish a base for analysis and research activity in Bangkok, Thailand as a hub for activities in the ASEAN / India region, along with continuing activities in Washington, D.C. We appreciate your further guidance and support as we endeavor for our best through research activities, dissemination of information, and cooperation and exchanges with foreign governments and research institutions.

Finally, I would like to thank the Nippon Foundation for sponsoring today's symposium. I hope this event will help illuminate the future of international aviation in the Asia-Pacific region, will be useful for aviation officials in both Japan and the United States, and that will provide a path to further strengthen the relationship between our two countries.

Thank you very much for your time today.