

Keynote Address

by Mr. Voradej Harnprasert,

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Given at the Civil/Military Cooperation Seminar/Workshop

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Mr. Yoshiki Imawaka, Deputy Regional Director of ICAO,
Asia/Pacific Office.

The Deputy Commander of Directorate of Air Operations
Control, Royal Thai Air Force,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honored to address this distinguished gathering of delegations from both Civil and Military organizations attending the Civil/Military Cooperation Seminar/Workshop. On behalf of the Department of Civil Aviation, Thailand and on my own behalf, may I extend to all of you our warmest welcome and wish you a very pleasant stay in Bangkok.

On this important event in the field of aviation, I would like to illustrate some points regarding the cooperation between the Civil and Military bodies in Thailand.

For Thailand, we realize that the airspace of a country is a resource to be shared and managed in order to achieve the balance between the needs of both civil, who are the users of airspace and military, the guardian of that airspace.

The increasing number of air traffic in recent years and the concern for better and greener environment, at times, do not go hand in hand. To meet the needs of the airspace users for more efficient routes that would reduce the emissions from aircraft, new routes have been proposed. Moreover, most of the proposed routes have to go through the prohibited or restricted areas as imposed by States to serve the needs of the military.

In order to establish these routes, careful consideration must be undertaken, due regards must be given to both parties. Therefore, “Airspace Sub – Committee” has already been set

up as the mechanism for negotiations between them. The Airspace Sub – Committee consists of members from both all airspace users and the armed forces. This Sub-Committee also looks into other matters regarding the difficulties and problems on the use of airspace.

I am very pleased to say that this Sub-Committee has been performing well, achieving outstanding results, for example, the establishing of new route, M904 from Bangkok to Australia. The route is clear of some specific FIRs, allowing the airlines to make substantial reduction on their over-flight expenses. Some conditional routes have also been established, assisting the airlines to fly through the prohibited areas during the specified time period.

Further improvements for the Thailand's airspace are in progress, such as the setting up of new PBN routes between city pairs to permit unrestricted climb and descent, enhancing ATM support tools are being put into use in order to make the airspace safer and more efficient.

The new Directorate of Civil Military ATM Coordination incorporating new technologies to enable real-time coordination will contribute to flexible use of airspace possible and I have a strong positive feeling that all of these mentioned initiatives will come into effect within a very near future.

At this occasion, may I, on behalf of the Department of Civil Aviation, Thailand, express sincere thanks to ICAO for initiating this Seminar/Workshop which marks a new era of civil and military cooperation at regional level and a step forward for the participants in this field to further focus and intensify our co-operative efforts. Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation to all ICAO's officers who have worked so devotedly and tirelessly to make it possible for us to meet together here today.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you every success in your deliberations.

Thank you.