

Opening Speech for Civil/Military Cooperation Seminar/Workshop
28 February – 1 March 2012
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Mr. Voradej Harnprasert, Director General, Department of Civil Aviation, Thailand, Air Marshal, Sujin Chamchoy, Deputy Commander of Air Operations Control, Directorate of Air Operations Control, Royal Thai Air Force.

Distinguished Guests. Ladies and Gentlemen. Good Morning

On behalf of the Secretary General of ICAO, Mr. Raymond Benjamin and Regional Director, ICAO Asia Pacific Office, Mr. Mokhtar Awan, I welcome you all to the Civil Military Cooperation Seminar workshop held at the Regional Office in Bangkok.

I also welcome Mr Gustavo De Lean, Regional Programme Officer, ICAO HQ, who supports this seminar, and moderators of the seminar from Eurocontrol, FAA and IATA .

This seminar is a part of worldwide campaign to convey a message of mutual trust and confidence, as principal requirements for collaboration between civil and military authorities. It was emanated from the Global Air Traffic Management Forum on Civil/Military held in Montreal in October 2009.

The 37th Session of the ICAO Assembly expressed support for flexible use of airspace, making specific reference to the importance of a balanced and equitable access to airspace by civil and military users. The Assembly also expressed support for ICAO's efforts to raise the States awareness in relation to the benefits of civil/military coordination and cooperation, and adopted Resolution A 37-15, Appendix O - coordination and cooperation of civil and military traffic. The Resolution concluded that ICAO should serve as an international platform to facilitate improved civil/military cooperation, collaboration and sharing of best practices.

ICAO is conducting this seminar workshop in each Region, in partnership with FAA United States, EUROCONTROL, IATA, CANSO, and UVS International. Support from States and other international organizations is also appreciated.

What we will bring here is a common understanding that improved cooperation between civil and military is one of the key conditions for increasing effective use of airspace.

For civil aviation, it will meet the requirements for more safe and efficient air transportation system, and for accommodating the increasing traffic.

For military, it will meet the requirements for mission safely and effectively.

The sharing of airspace between civil and military is included in the ICAO's vision of integrated, harmonized and globally interoperable ATM system, as indicated in the Global ATM Operational Concept and in the Global Air Navigation Plan.

The airspace is a common limited resource for both civil and military users. We are looking at a goal to open up segregated airspace, when it is not used for its originally intended purpose, and access for all users according to their needs without impeding the military missions or operations.

In the Asia Pacific Region, discussion for Seamless ATM operations was recently initiated, and the First meeting of the Seamless ATM Operation Planning Group of APANPIRG was held in January 2012. The meeting noted that in order to develop Seamless ATM operations in the Asia Pacific Region, civil military cooperation is crucial.

The 47th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) urged greater participation of military authorities in civil forums to facilitate optimum utilization of airspace. And civil representatives should consider including their military counterparts in their delegations at ICAO meetings, wherever possible.

Military cooperation in civil Air Traffic Control Centres to ensure appropriate civil military tactical communication was also urged.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I encourage you to share and to discuss in the next few days, your experiences to promote a more proactive approach to improve civil/military cooperation and coordination and management of the airspace.

In closing I wish you all a successful seminar and pleasant stay in Bangkok.

Thank you for your attention.