



**Address by the Secretary General of ICAO,  
Mr. Raymond Benjamin,  
at the 10th Anniversary of Incheon Airport in the Republic of Korea**

(Seoul, 29 March 2011)

I am pleased to join you today for the 10th anniversary celebration of Incheon Airport.

In that relatively short timeframe, you have established yourselves as one of the premier facilities in the world, having been awarded for a sixth year running the Airport Service Quality award from Airports Council International.

This tribute to customer excellence will serve you well to reap the benefits of the anticipated growth in passenger traffic over the next decade.

To mention a few but revealing figures: in the Asia/Pacific region, total passenger traffic for international and domestic flights increased by about 14 per cent in 2010 and should continue to grow at a rapid pace. As for the intra Asia/Pacific market, it should expand at an annual rate of 6.9 per cent up to 2020 and reach about 211 million passengers.

The other strategic advantage of Incheon for attracting customers is your forward-looking focus on environmental sustainability.

As one of the largest and busiest airports in the world, Incheon has undertaken a corporate social strategy that seeks the “development of an environmentally friendly airport in harmony with nature.”

I applaud the internationally certified Environmental Management System (EMS) that you have implemented to manage the environmental impact and sustainability of the airport’s operations.

The list of your initiatives is impressive: environmental education for staff, improvements in energy consumption, ongoing monitoring and research into noise impacts and air quality in surrounding areas, innovative solutions to reduce operating costs and impacts, and increasingly accurate measurement of its Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Incheon Airport has also enhanced its proactive approach to environmental protection by seeking to prevent environmental degradation through water and wastewater management initiatives, frequent inspection and monitoring of local air quality and local ecosystems, and the establishment of a disaster response centre to respond to risks and potential environmental disasters.

Importantly, local partners, including civil society, external regulatory agencies and research institutions, were consulted as a means of ensuring the effectiveness and relevance of its initiatives.

Through all of this, Incheon Airport has established a broad and far-reaching policy directed toward preserving the quality of the local environment.

I would encourage you to not only keep up your efforts but to make them known across the aviation community, as an example of what can be done to improve the environmental sustainability of the global air transport system.

Let me conclude by reiterating my congratulations for your long list of achievements over the past ten years and for your demonstrated commitment to customer excellence and environmental sustainability.

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