

**Address by the Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Mr. Raymond Benjamin,  
on the occasion of the inauguration of the  
Asia and Pacific Regional Sub-Office**

(Beijing, China - 27 June 2013)

1. Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,
2. The decision by the ICAO Council to approve the creation of a Regional Sub-Office here in Beijing recognizes the anticipated strong growth of traffic in the Region through the year 2030. It also directly responds to the request of Asia and Pacific Member States for increased support from ICAO to deal effectively with the associated capacity, technical and operational challenges.
3. The Regional Sub-Office represents the conduit towards realizing our collective vision of an interoperable, seamless and global air traffic management system for international civil aviation in the 21st century. It will complement the ongoing work and higher-level regional coordination already established through ICAO's Asia and Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok.
4. Very importantly its scope and purpose will benefit tremendously from the knowledge and experience gained through ICAO's Asia Pacific Flight Procedure Programme Office which has been located here in Beijing.
5. In a nutshell the RSO will focus on improving safety of flight operations, enhancing airspace capacity and efficiency, increasing effectiveness of ATM Operations and ensuring continuous improvement of organizational performances.
6. I must also take the opportunity to congratulate and at the same convey the considerable appreciation of ICAO, as well as the Asia and Pacific Community as a whole, to the People's Republic of China for graciously proposing to be the host location for the new APAC Regional Sub-Office. ICAO is very grateful to China and the city of Beijing for your continuing efforts to facilitate the work of ICAO.
7. ICAO is indeed very pleased to continue its global mission with the support and cooperation of China's government who have previously hosted the ICAO Flight Performance Programme and COSCAP North Asia Programme.
8. I wish to also acknowledge and record ICAO's appreciation to the human resource commitments by the Governments of India, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Singapore. We are indeed very encouraged by the significant level of ATM resource commitments and cooperation that continues to characterize your region and which will undoubtedly serve to make this new RSO initiative an unqualified success.

9. These close partnerships between ICAO and China together with the related contributions from India, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Singapore to establish the RSO, will serve to showcase a new insight into how the Asia Pacific region can cooperate more effectively on its aviation challenges.
10. On its part ICAO will guide and plan the RSO's activities on the basis of specific performance based success criteria, agreed by Asia Pacific States to deliver measurable safety and efficiency outcomes that will prove a significant benefit not only to your region but to the entire global system.
11. At this moment it will be opportune for me to also describe the administrative and functional linkage between the Regional Sub-Office and the APAC Regional Office in Bangkok. Probably this is also the right time for me to introduce you to Mr. Noppadol Pringvaliich, who I have appointed as the Chief of the APAC Regional Sub-Office. Mr. Pringvaliich will report directly to the Regional Director of the ICAO APAC Office in Bangkok. To put it concisely, the overall supervision and overseeing would be from the ICAO APAC Regional Director, from who the policy guidance and counseling would also originate as well.
12. Looking forward, the strategic framework for the Asia-Pacific Regional Sub-Office will be centered around three primary Air Traffic Management mandates.
13. These mandates are:
  - Improving the safety and efficiency of Asia-Pacific flight Operations through innovative procedures and technologies.
  - Enhancing airspace capacity and efficiency to accommodate APAC aviation growth.
  - Increasing effectiveness and optimizing ATM Operations via collaborative management of air traffic flows.
14. Finally, Ladies and gentlemen, ICAO is tremendously grateful for the support and assistance which our host China and the broader APAC Regional membership have demonstrated throughout the conceptualization, planning and development stages of this important new ATM resource. The opening of this new Regional Sub-Office is a first for ICAO and the end-result of a process characterized by a spirit of cooperation amongst all States in your Region.
15. Thank you, for your attention.

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