

Opening Remarks

Honorable Dr. Bernard Aliu, President of the ICAO Council Delegates and distinguished guests from every corner of the world,

I express my deepest gratitude for coming a long way to Korea with my warm-hearted welcome to you all. It is a great pleasure for Korea to co-host the ICAO Air Transport Symposium and the Conference on International Air Transport Cooperation 2019 at this beautiful season of spring.

As we are well aware, aircraft is warm and inclusive medium that connects people, converges cultures of different backgrounds and further, brings the world together as a single community. The potential possessed by the aviation industry is so enormous that the industry has posted steady growth even in the face of global economic slowdown.

Such growth which has continued over the last decade is expected to remain solid going forward. The passenger demand is increasing with more and more people moving from one city to another and across borders.

The growth of LCCs leads to lower prices and diversified services for passengers, which will help the air transport industry to expand and strengthen its base.

Moreover, the future aviation transportation will take the lead of future aviation industry as the next growth engine.

Meanwhile, our aviation industry is also faced with a host of difficulties and challenges.

Competitions among air carriers become ever more intense and issues of aircraft safety and security are also tasks we cannot ignore. Against this backdrop, this Symposium and Conference bringing the world's prominent aviation experts together hold special meaning.

I hope these coincided events serve as a platform to seek solutions to the current challenges facing the industry while leading further cooperation among countries.

Distinguished guests, Although the Republic of Korea ranks 103rd by land area, the sky

network that Korean carriers operate in is the 7th largest in the world. As many as 93 airlines from home and abroad are connecting the cities of Korea to 183 cities in 53 countries across the globe. In addition, Incheon International Airport is growing into the largest hub airport in Asian region with the grand opening of the second passenger terminal last year.

Such remarkable growth of Korean aviation industry has not been possible without the strong support from both ICAO and its 192 member states.

Since 2001, Korea has made its utmost efforts in leading the development of global air transport industry and hopes to take greater responsibilities as an ICAO Council member.

Taking this opportunity, I ask for your unwavering support and cooperation for our run for the next ICAO Council election this coming September.

I hope this event serves as a valuable opportunity resulting in productive discussions covering from liberalization in air transport, aviation safety to future aviation.

Once again, I extend my cordial welcome to all the distinguished guests for coming to Korea and express my deep gratitude to all the staff members and officials who made this event possible. The Republic of Korea has 5,000 years of history, with its tradition and culture alive in every corner of the country. At the same time, it is a country of cutting-edge information and communication technology and a cultural powerhouse that produced world-famous K-POP musicians such as BTS. I'm aware of your tight schedules but hope you could make beautiful memories while staying in Korea where tradition and advanced technology co-exist in harmony.

I wish you a pleasant and rewarding stay in Korea and wish you all the best in the years ahead.

Thank you.

Kim Hyun-mee

Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport