

Sixteenth Meeting of the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA-AP/16)

**ICAO Asia and Pacific Office, Bangkok, Thailand
15 – 17 November 2023**

Opening Remarks – Host CAPSCA AP/16 Meeting

DDG. CAAT (Dr. Pongpat Thiensiri)

Mr. Tao Ma, the Regional Director of ICAO-Asia Pacific,
Dr. Ansa Jordaan, Chief of Aviation Medicine Section, ICAO Headquarter
Our local and international organization partners,
Public Health Authorities,
Airport and Airline representatives,
Aviation Medical Examiners
Representatives from Civil Aviation Authorities in Asia-Pacific region,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

On behalf of DG CAAT, it is a great pleasure for me to welcome you at the opening session of the Sixteen CAPSCA Asia-Pacific Meeting today. I am very glad to acknowledge high-level participants and delegates from both aviation and public health sector in Asia-Pacific region joining in this meeting.

As we all know, during our lifetime we have gone through a number of public health emergencies of international concern starting from global spread of avian influenza in 2005, followed by emerging of novel

influenza in 2009 and the recent COVID-19 pandemic in 2019. These public health events had affected aviation industry in particular the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

These are the fundamental reasons of CAPSCA inception in ICAO with supports from WHO in 2006 and its continuation up till now and will carry on to the future. Apart from international communicable diseases, we also have to be aware of other public health hazards that may affect aviation sector including chemical events and radiation emergencies.

Aviation travel plays an important role in public health emergency of international concern. In this connection, collaboration between the two sector is the most essential. Each sector by nature has many stakeholders. Therefore, collaboration is one of the keys to success at our works.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank all participants. Your presence here in this meeting reflect your commitment to the CAPSCA works.

Allow me to express my sincere thanks to ICAO both Asia-Pacific Regional Office and Headquarter to make this meeting happen.

Let me finally wish you a fruitful and successful meeting and have a pleasant stay in Bangkok.

Thank you.
