



**2ND ASIA PACIFIC
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**
CIVIL AVIATION 2024
11th – 12th September 2024 | Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi



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WELCOME ADDRESS – (11th SEPT 2024)

Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India

Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Govt of India,
Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt of India,
Hon'ble Ministers from Asia Pacific region,
President of ICAO,
Directors General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
A very warm welcome to all of you.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the **2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation**. This gathering represents a critical milestone in our collective efforts to address the evolving demands and opportunities in civil aviation across the Asia-Pacific region. Your presence today highlights the shared commitment of our nations to ensure the continued progress, safety, and sustainability of our aviation sector.

Our region stands at the cusp of transformation in civil aviation—as both a hub for passenger growth and as an emerging leader in innovations related to air traffic management, safety protocols, and environmental sustainability. As we begin our deliberations, it is essential to recognize the complexities we face, but also the vast potential that lies ahead.

One of the main objectives of this conference is to finalize the **Asia-Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation—the Delhi Declaration**. This Declaration will chart a course for enhanced collaboration on some of the most pressing issues: **aviation safety, air navigation systems, capacity building, and sustainability**. The consensus we build here will serve as the foundation for actionable strategies that ensure our skies are safer, more efficient, and responsive to future challenges.

While **aviation safety** remains a top priority for every state represented here today, we must also turn our attention to another key pillar of a safe and efficient aviation industry—our **air navigation systems**. With increasing airspace congestion, particularly in high-traffic regions, the need for leveraging advanced technologies, such as **satellite-based navigation and digital communication systems**, becomes more urgent. These innovations will not only improve efficiency but also enhance safety across our skies.

Equally important is the issue of **environmental sustainability**, a critical dimension of our discussions. The growth of aviation has brought immense benefits, but it has also come with environmental costs. Our challenge now is to embrace sustainable aviation solutions—whether through the development of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), the adoption of carbon offsetting mechanisms, or through innovations in aircraft design and operational efficiencies. The discussions we engage in today will be instrumental in ensuring that the growth of aviation is achieved without compromising the health of our environment.

India has been proactively working in these areas, and it is a privilege to share some of our recent milestones. **From enhancing our air navigation systems to launching**

environmentally conscious aviation programs, we are committed to driving the growth of the sector while adhering to global best practices. Our contributions, though significant, are part of a larger regional effort where cooperation and knowledge sharing will be key to our collective success.

This brings me to a crucial point: **the importance of regional cooperation**. The Asia-Pacific region is home to diverse markets, unique operational challenges, and different levels of infrastructure development. Yet, it is precisely this diversity that allows us to learn from one another and develop tailored solutions. Through joint training programs, knowledge exchange platforms, and collaborative ventures, we can ensure that even the most remote regions benefit from the advances in aviation technology and safety standards. The discussions we hold today will further strengthen these bonds of collaboration.

In addition to our technical deliberations, we will also focus on capacity building and enhancing workforce skills. As the demand for civil aviation professionals rises, we must invest in training the next generation of experts—whether in safety management, air navigation, engineering, or air traffic control. This focus on talent will ensure that our region remains competitive and ready to meet future challenges head-on.

Before I conclude, I would like to emphasize the role of partnerships, both within our region and globally. It is only through collaboration—with ICAO, with fellow member states, and with private sector stakeholders—that we can truly realize the full potential of the civil aviation sector in the Asia-Pacific region. We must build on the momentum generated today to continue driving our industry forward in a sustainable, safe, and innovative manner.



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In closing, let me once again extend my deepest appreciation to all of you for being here. Your presence and participation make this conference a landmark event. I am confident that our discussions will yield valuable insights and create actionable solutions that benefit the entire Asia-Pacific region.

I wish you all a highly productive and successful conference, and I look forward to the outcomes of our shared efforts.

Thank you.
