

**Monday, 28 July 2025 – Opening Ceremony**

**Opening remarks by Mr. NAKANO Hiromasa**

**Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan**

His Excellency Mr. Salazar, Secretary General of ICAO,

Directors General of Civil Aviation from Asia-Pacific countries,

Representatives of international organizations,

ICAO Headquarters, and the ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office,

Distinguished participants,

Good morning.

I would like to begin by offering my heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives in the recent aircraft accident in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, and to their bereaved families.

As we are reminded of the vital importance of ensuring aviation safety and the need for international cooperation to that end, I would like to offer a few words on the occasion of the opening of the 60th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation for the Asia and Pacific Region.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Japan, and thank you all for traveling from across the region and beyond to be here today. It is a great honor for Japan to host this milestone 60th conference, with participation of more than 300 delegates from overseas. I am also very pleased to have this invaluable opportunity to engage in direct discussions with all of you on key issues that will shape the future of civil aviation in this region.

I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to the local governments and business communities of the Tohoku region, including Miyagi Prefecture and the City of Sendai, for their support in making this event possible.

This marks the 60th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation for the Asia and Pacific Region. It has been 16 years that Japan is hosting the conference, the last being the 46th meeting held in 2009. Since then, thanks to the strong leadership of the Directors General in each country and region, as well as the initiatives of ICAO Headquarters and the support of the Asia and Pacific Regional Office, civil aviation in the Asia-Pacific region has grown remarkably, with air traffic volume more than doubling. This upward trend is expected to continue, with the region further expanding its share of the global aviation market.

The theme of this conference is set as: “The sustainable skies of the Asia-Pacific region: towards increased economic prosperity and social well-being by air transportation of people and goods in the region”, reflecting our shared aspiration.

The Asia-Pacific region is expected to play an increasingly important role in global aviation. I am firmly convinced that it is of vital significance – not only for our region but also for the development of global civil aviation – that the civil aviation authorities of such a region share common challenges, cooperate toward achieving sustainable skies, and contribute to the activities of the ICAO.

With the hope that this five-day 60th DGCA conference will serve as a meaningful step toward the further development of aviation in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, I would like to conclude my opening remarks.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.