

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

**Welcome remarks by Ms. NAKAYAMA Rieko**

**Director-General for International Aviation, JCAB**

His Excellency Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary-General of ICAO;  
Mr. Tao Ma, Regional Director of the ICAO APAC Office; the esteemed Directors  
General; distinguished delegates; ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

I am NAKAYAMA Rieko, Director-General for International Aviation at the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for coming to Japan to attend the 60th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia and Pacific Region. It is a great pleasure to welcome you all here in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture.

As Minister Nakano mentioned in his opening remarks, the theme of this meeting is: "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"

The presence of the Asia-Pacific region in international aviation is expected to grow even further in the coming years. Currently, the global number of air passengers stands at approximately 9.5 billion, and this figure is projected to double within the next 20 years. This growth will be driven by international markets, particularly the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions. By 2043, It is also anticipated that nearly half of the world's international air passenger traffic will depart from or arrive in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the other hand, in order to realize these promising projections and ensure their sustainability, we are facing various challenges, including those related to safety, efficiency, the environment, and human resource development. This means that aviation authorities in the Asia-Pacific region have a particularly important role to play, and their contributions are highly anticipated.

I hope that this conference will serve as a forum for participants to share knowledge and experiences, learn from one another, and discuss what we should do and how we should cooperate to achieve sustainable skies in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

I would greatly appreciate your cooperation over the course of the next five days.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.