

**60th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

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**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

**JCAB'S MEASURES AND POLICIES ON CIVIL AVIATION
CYBERSECURITY**

(Presented by Japan)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

Cyber threats and risks to civil aviation have been increasing in recent years. In order to appropriately address this situation and enhance cyber resilience, establishment of policies and implementation of measures at the national and international level is urgently required. In this context, this paper presents Japan's efforts to revise the Regulation for Enforcement of the Civil Aeronautics Act with the aim of enabling Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) to supervise operators more appropriately.

JCAB'S MEASURES AND POLICIES ON CIVIL AVIATION CYBERSECURITY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Cyber threats and risks have been rapidly growing as cyber assaults are not easily detected and thus threat actors have an unfair advantage. Attempts to disrupt and damage critical infrastructure are often observed in recent years. As critical infrastructure, civil aviation and airport sectors could be potential target of malicious attacks.

1.2 Whilst cyber threats targeting the aviation and airport sectors have been globally increasing in recent years, a major Japanese airline suffered distributed denial of services attack (DDoS), in December 2024, which caused delays to both domestic and international flights and even domestic flight cancellation.

1.3 Because of the nature of aviation and airport operations, which involve a high degree of interconnectivity and the dependence on digital infrastructure, it is essential to continuously develop and implement sophisticated policies and measures at both national and international levels to mitigate cyber threats and risks and to safeguard civil aviation.

1.4 In recognition that promoting information sharing including best practice is a key element of building cybersecurity culture as the chapter 9 of Cybersecurity Action Plan (CyAP) indicates, this paper outlines Japan's ongoing efforts to protect critical infrastructure, including the aviation and airport sectors, from evolving cyber threats and to ensure robust cybersecurity resilience.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 In Japan, for the purpose of stable and appropriate service provision, the Basic Act on Cybersecurity stipulates that critical infrastructure operators, including those in the aviation and airport sectors, should make voluntary and proactive efforts to ensure cybersecurity. Specifically, each operator implements voluntary cybersecurity measures based on “The Cybersecurity Policy for Critical Infrastructure Protection”.

2.2 On the other hand, from the perspective of business supervision, it is becoming increasingly necessary to address cyber threats under the respective business laws of each critical infrastructure sector. In most of the 15 sectors designated as critical infrastructure, such as information and telecommunications, electric power, gas, and medical care, the implementation of cybersecurity measures is mandated by their respective business laws.

2.3 Amongst 15 critical infrastructure sectors, 4 transport-related sectors, including aviation and airports, are not currently subject to mandatory cybersecurity requirements under existing business laws. Considering the current circumstances, it is essential to ensure an adequate level of cybersecurity to safeguard critical infrastructure. In this context, the Government of Japan has formulated a policy to take necessary measures to enable effective oversight of cybersecurity efforts in each sector. This includes obtaining information on the critical systems of individual operators and promoting information sharing between the government and industry.

2.4 Airlines that operate air transport services in Japan are required to obtain approval for their plans from Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB), and airport operators in Japan are required to submit their programmes to JCAB. In order to promote the strengthening of cybersecurity efforts by airlines and airport operators, JCAB plans to revise the Regulation for Enforcement of the Civil Aeronautics Act to require certain Japanese airlines and airport operators to include cybersecurity-related matters for their critical systems in their plans and programmes.

2.5 Items that should be addressed in the plans of airlines and the programmes of airport operators will include an outline of critical systems, the responsibility structure of cybersecurity measures, an overview of cybersecurity measures (access limitation measures, log management, backup frequency), emergency response, business continuity plans (BCP), training and education, and internal audits and/or monitoring.

2.6 In addition, JCAB plans to conduct audits to verify whether these cybersecurity measures are being properly implemented.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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