

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

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AGENDA ITEM 3: AVIATION SAFETY

**STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING
THE LOW ALTITUDE ECONOMY IN THAILAND**

(Presented by Thailand)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

Thailand is outlining the strategic framework for promoting the low-altitude economy (LAE) in Thailand. The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) is focusing on supporting research, testing, and development of technologies such as Drone Delivery, Aerial Survey, and eVTOL operations under a Regulatory Sandbox. Furthermore, the strategy emphasizes the creation of specialized training and technology testing centers for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) to develop domestic knowledge. Key legal and regulatory modernization efforts are underway to establish robust guidelines for low-altitude airspace utilization, develop specific rules for AAM/eVTOL, and eliminate existing legal constraints. CAAT emphasizes public awareness campaigns to foster readiness for next-generation air transport.

STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING THE LOW ALTITUDE ECONOMY IN THAILAND

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The rapid advancement of unmanned aircraft systems and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) technologies present significant opportunities for economic growth through the utilization of low-altitude airspace. CAAT initiated a strategic framework to foster the development of the low-altitude economy, ensuring safe, efficient, and innovative operations.

1.2 Thailand believes that the low-altitude economy constitutes an emerging economic sector characterized by the utilization of low-altitude airspace for commercial, governmental, and public-benefit activities. This sector employs unmanned aircraft systems, AAM technologies, and supporting digital infrastructure to increase productivity, enhance public services, and foster innovation across sectors such as agriculture, logistics, transportation, energy, construction, environmental management, inspection and emergency response. Sustainable growth of the low-altitude economy necessitates an integrated framework that addresses aviation safety, airspace management, communications, certification, workforce development, and industry promotion.

1.3 Thailand initiates its low-altitude economy concept for fostering a safe, innovative, and sustainable low-altitude economy under the CAAT proposal. Key initiatives include the implementation of a Regulatory Sandbox to validate drone delivery, aerial survey, and future eVTOL operations in a controlled environment; the establishment of national UAS and AAM testing centers to support technology evaluation and operational readiness; the development of UAS Traffic Management (UTM) capabilities for the safe integration of low-altitude operations; and the modernization of legal and regulatory frameworks to accommodate emerging aviation technologies.

1.4 As part of Thailand's vision to capitalize on emerging aviation technologies, CAAT is driving key initiatives to build a robust infrastructure and operational ecosystem. This strategy focuses on establishing comprehensive regulatory frameworks, enhancing technological testing capabilities, developing a specialized workforce, and creating public awareness to support long-term integration.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 To accelerate the growth of Thailand's low-altitude economy and ensure high levels of aviation safety, a multi-pillar development strategy has been formulated. This strategic framework focuses on building a foundation for advanced technologies while maintaining operational safety and cross-sector integration.

2.2 CAAT actively supports the research, testing, and development of emerging technologies, such as Drone Delivery, Aerial Survey, and transport via Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft. To facilitate these innovations without compromising public safety, operations are targeted to be conducted under a dedicated Regulatory Sandbox framework, allowing for flexible yet controlled real-world validation.

2.3 To build a sustainable national ecosystem, CAAT promotes the establishment of technology testing centers specializing in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM). These institutions will play a critical role in developing local personnel, standardizing technical skillsets, and fostering domestic technical expertise.

2.4 The successful integration of next-generation aerial transport relies heavily on public acceptance. Consequently, initiatives are being launched to publicize and build comprehensive awareness among the public and stakeholders regarding the benefits, safety protocols, and socio-economic value of AAM and new-era air transportation.

2.5 A key prerequisite for a sustainable low-altitude economy is the modernization of legal rules. CAAT is establishing clear guidelines for drafting regulations governing the utilization of low-altitude airspace. This includes proposing targeted legal instruments and regulatory updates specifically for AAM and eVTOL operations, alongside resolving existing regulatory limitations and legal constraints.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) note Thailand's strategic initiatives and progress in promoting a safe and sustainable low-altitude economy;
- b) encourage Member States to share best practices, regulatory methodologies, and sandbox experiences related to Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) integration; and
- c) encourage Member States to share experiences in stakeholder engagement to strengthen societal acceptance, while promoting industry development through workforce training, research and innovation, and collaboration with domestic and international partners to unlock economic opportunities within the low-altitude economy.

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