

**59th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Cebu, Philippines
14 to 18 October 2024*

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

- b): **HOSTING OFFER AND THEME
TOPIC FOR THE FORTHCOMING
CONFERENCE(S) OF APAC DGCA**

**PROPOSAL ON THE THEME TOPIC FOR THE 60TH
CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL
AVIATION ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

Under this theme, the conference will explore how air transportation can enhance economic prosperity and social well-being in the Asia-Pacific region. Discussions will focus on balancing aviation innovation with sustainability, encompassing environmental protection, workforce development, and economic resilience. Strategies to improve the efficiency of passenger and cargo transport while reducing environmental impacts will be examined. Additionally, discussions may align with ICAO's new strategic plan. Key themes include policy frameworks, technological advancements, and fostering diversity through NGAP, all aimed at building a sustainable and inclusive air transport network for the region's future.

PROPOSAL ON THE THEME TOPIC FOR THE 60th DGCA CONFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 60th Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia and Pacific Regions (60th DGCA Conference) is set to convene in Sendai City, Japan, July 28 - August 1 2025. This discussion paper proposes for discussion at the 60th Conference a Theme Topic *“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 theme aligns with current global and regional trends, focusing on the role of sustainable aviation in promoting economic growth and social development.

1.2 The focus of the conference will be on exploring how the aviation sector can serve as a key enabler of both economic prosperity and social well-being across the Asia-Pacific region. In light of the growing importance of sustainable practices, the discussions will integrate environmental sustainability, workforce development, and the economic resilience of States into a comprehensive approach.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Innovation and Efficiency in Sustainable Aviation: Innovation is key to driving both efficiency and sustainability in the aviation industry. New technologies such as sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), electric and hybrid aircraft, and advancements in air traffic management systems and CNS systems which will enable the introduction of trajectory based operation are critical for reducing environmental impact while promoting long-term economic growth. However, balancing these innovations with economic realities, particularly in developing States, remains a challenge that requires strategic planning and international cooperation. Additionally, improving operational efficiency is essential for reducing costs and lowering emissions. Participants will explore how innovations such as artificial intelligence, big data, and predictive maintenance can optimize air operations, enabling the aviation sector to achieve both economic and environmental sustainability.

2.2 Economic Resilience and Inclusivity: Aviation is a vital conduit for economic growth, facilitating trade, tourism, and market integration for remote and underserved regions. Ensuring economic resilience, particularly in smaller or developing economies, is essential for a more equitable air transport network. Policies that expand access to air services in rural areas and underserved markets, including exploration of the possibility to apply the development of advanced air mobility, will be considered, ensuring that aviation’s benefits are broadly distributed across different segments of society. A focus on inclusive growth will help strengthen the economic fabric of the Asia-Pacific region.

2.3 Sustainable Workforce Development: The sector faces an aging workforce and a shortage of skilled professionals, especially in technical and operational roles. States are encouraged to develop education and training initiatives, being mindful of the ICAO’s Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) programme, to prepare the future workforce. Diversity and inclusion will be emphasized, focusing on increasing the participation of women and underrepresented groups in aviation. This approach ensures a resilient and sustainable talent pipeline that meets the industry’s evolving needs while promoting social equity.

2.4 Reducing Environmental Impacts: Aviation is widely regarded as a significant contributor to global CO₂ emissions, and mitigating these impacts is a priority for the sector. The use of SAF, carbon offsetting, and energy-efficient infrastructure will be discussed as key strategies for decarbonizing the sector. The conference will address the ICAO’s Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Participants will explore policy incentives that encourage the adoption of low-carbon technologies, aligning the region with global sustainability goals while addressing region-specific challenges such as varying levels of development and infrastructure readiness.

2.5 ICAO's new Strategic Plan: The discussions will be mindful of the ICAO Strategic Plan 2026-2050, which reflects the Organization's long-term aspiration to achieve bold strategic goals for the orderly growth of international aviation, underpinned by safety, security, and innovative services that enhance the passenger experience. By aligning regional strategies with global objectives, in line with Delhi Declaration adopted at the Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on 12 September 2024, the Asia-Pacific region can strengthen its competitiveness and resilience in the civil aviation sector. The focus will be on how regional cooperation can enhance the sector's ability to adapt to emerging global trends, ensuring that growth is both sustainable and inclusive.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) Discuss and adopt the proposed Theme Topic for the 60th DGCA Conference of Asia and Pacific Regions; and
- b) Give emphasis accordingly to the matters coming under the theme topic in formulating discussion and information papers;

— END —