



WORKING PAPER

**SEVENTH WORLDWIDE AIR TRANSPORT CONFERENCE
(ATCONF/7)**

Montréal, HQ, 16 to 20 November 2026

**Agenda Item 4: Emerging technologies, new business models and other associated aspects
4.1: Economic regulatory frameworks on emerging technologies**

PROMOTING THE HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS FOR ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

(Presented by Japan)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper discusses the importance of the development of globally harmonized standards and regulatory frameworks for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) in order to achieve its safe and efficient introduction and to promote the economic development of air transport. It also emphasises the International Civil Aviation's (ICAO) pivotal role and the necessity of further promoting cooperation and information sharing among States.

Action: The conference is invited to:

- a) recognize the importance of global cooperation in facilitating the safe and sustainable development of AAM; and
- b) encourage ICAO to continue and further accelerate the development of globally harmonized standards, guidance material and regulatory frameworks for AAM in order to facilitate its development and integration into the existing aviation system.

<i>Strategic Goal:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Goal: <i>The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All.</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	None.
<i>References:</i>	None.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The global implementation of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) is strongly anticipated, with various manufacturers around the world being actively engaged in its development. These efforts aim to establish a strong position in this emerging market, which is expected to become a new mode of air transportation in the future.

1.2 Some AAM manufacturers have already conducted a number of flight tests and have begun type certification process with the relevant regulatory authorities in their respective state of design. Furthermore, with the implementation of AAM operations in mind, some companies are examining viable operational routes and working on the development and operation of vertiports.

1.3 In Japan, AAM demonstration flights were successfully conducted at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, representing a tangible outcome of the public-private efforts to promote the introduction of AAM.

1.4 As AAM aircraft development and operational preparations progress in various States, and efforts toward the actual operations come into reality, the global harmonization of regulatory frameworks and technical standards is becoming increasingly important to enable the safe and efficient deployment of AAM and to promote the economic development of air transport.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Through the efforts undertaken to realize AAM demonstration flights at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, it was confirmed that the introduction of AAM requires not only the assurance of aircraft safety, but also the establishment of a comprehensive ecosystem, including pilot licensing systems, operational rules, vertiports and traffic management. It also became evident that these elements are closely interconnected and that integrated regulatory frameworks and coordination among a wide range of stakeholders are indispensable for achieving safe and efficient operations.

2.2 Various States are currently advancing the development, certification and operational preparations of AAM aircraft with a variety of design concepts and operational models. As States continue to develop regulatory frameworks in accordance with their respective circumstances, AAM is gradually transitioning from the demonstration phase to the stage of commercial operations. In this context, bilateral and regional cooperation plays an important role in facilitating the sharing of operational experience, technical knowledge and regulatory best practices, thereby supporting the safe introduction of AAM.

2.3 At the same time, in order for such cooperation to be effective and sustainable, it is important to establish globally harmonized standards and guidance material that serve as a common global foundation. As efforts are being undertaken in various States regarding certification systems, operational requirements, pilot licensing and infrastructure standards, ensuring consistency among these approaches is an important element in facilitating the smooth introduction and expanded use of AAM.

2.4 Given the anticipated international expansion of AAM aircraft and related services in the future, the importance of harmonization in the areas such as aircraft certification, operations, licensing, vertiport design and operation, and other related fields is expected to increase further. Harmonization in these areas may facilitate cooperation among authorities and could also contribute to supporting the future international deployment of aircraft and related services.

2.5 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) plays a pivotal role in consolidating the experience and knowledge of the Member States, advancing the development of globally harmonized standards and regulatory frameworks, and facilitating information sharing and cooperation among them. As efforts toward the introduction of AAM continue to progress in various States, there is a need to further advance discussions on global harmonization and build a common understanding among States. In order to achieve the safe and efficient introduction of AAM and promote the economic development of air transport, it is expected that ICAO will continue and further accelerate its efforts to develop globally harmonized standards and regulatory frameworks.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 AAM, as a new mode of air transportation, has the potential to enhance connectivity and promote innovation, thereby contributing to the economic development of air transport and the enhancement of social benefits.

3.2 While Japan is committed to join ICAO's activity for standard/guidance setting and to make contribution to it, it is necessary to further promote cooperation and information sharing among States, as well as actively share experiences and best practices, to achieve the safe and efficient development of AAM.

3.3 In addition, in order to realize economic development through AAM operations, global harmonization of standards in various areas, including aircraft certification, operations, licensing and vertiports, is essential.

3.4 ICAO should further advance the development of globally harmonized frameworks, guidance material and standards that support the safe and sustainable development of AAM and the economic development of air transport, by consolidating the knowledge and experience of the Member States.

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