



**Keynote address by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma,
to the 2026 Asia Pacific Summit for Aviation Safety**

(Osaka, Japan, 4 August 2026)

*Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,
Directors General,
Distinguished leaders of industry,
Esteemed colleagues and friends,*

Good morning.

It is a great honour to join you at this 2026 Asia Pacific Summit for Aviation Safety.

I thank the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, the Flight Safety Foundation, and the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau for inviting me and for their warm welcome. I also want to thank Mr. Han Kok Juan, Dr. Hassan Shahidi, and Mr. Ishii Yasuo for bringing together so many aviation leaders.

The Asia-Pacific region leads the world in aviation growth.

Innovation is also bringing many changes to aviation, with modern aircraft, automation, artificial intelligence, and connected systems delivering many benefits.

As we connect more people and technologies, air traffic is becoming more complex.

In addition to the challenges of complexity, new risks are also emerging. Recently, these have included interference with satellite navigation, lithium battery fires, and cyber threats.

These risks do not respect borders.

All of this points to why we must renew our commitment to safety.

We must have stronger effective rules and oversight, supported by an entrenched safety culture.

That is why the theme of these talks is so apt.

"Achieving Safety Excellence: Collaborate, Reinforce, Transform," points to our priorities, the responsibilities we share, and the way forward.

The aviation community has always improved air transport by setting high goals and by working together to reach them.

Reflecting this, ICAO's vision for aviation is to provide air transport for all by 2050, with zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions.

This year is the first year of our strategic plan to achieve this vision.

This summit provides us with an important early opportunity to accelerate the momentum.

Colleagues,

Asia-Pacific countries are making progress with aviation safety oversight.

ICAO safety oversight auditing shows that 24 of the 37 States in this region are above the world average.

As of December 2025, the region's average safety oversight effective implementation score stood 63.46 percent.

The accident rate is also lower than the world average, however recent data shows an increase in accidents and fatalities. runway safety, turbulence, and preventing mid-air collisions remain major priorities.

All of this shows us that we still have work ahead.

We need more qualified people, stronger oversight, and better accident investigation.

These are investments that build the public trust aviation relies on.

Trust depends on trained authorities, good institutions, and a shared promise to meet global standards.

I want to highlight that prompt and transparent investigations in civil aviation accidents are also key to this trust.

The timely sharing of the findings from these investigations is crucial to preventing future similar accidents.

This must be a priority for Asia Pacific.

Colleagues,

Collaboration is the solution.

No country can fix every problem alone. And no country can be left behind.

We need shared answers to shared challenges.

Decades of proof show that the most effective way to improve safety is by sharing information and experience to create and implement common Standards.

On that point, we also need to reinforce the foundations of our collaboration.

We need strong laws, capable organizations, skilled people, and steady investment in oversight.

Every country must continue strengthening the implementation of State Safety Programmes and National Aviation Safety Plans, in support of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan.

This will enable us to proactively manage risk.

We also need to take every opportunity to improve through transformation.

Transformation means that as aviation changes, our rules, our organizations, and our people change too.

For example, artificial intelligence, advanced analytics and digital technologies offer tremendous opportunities to strengthen aviation safety. But technology will never replace leadership, professional judgement, or a positive safety culture.

ICAO will continue to support Member States through these transformations by developing standards that promote innovation, delivering training, and providing technical support through capacity building.

Across Asia-Pacific, we keep working to improve oversight, build skills, and strengthen cooperation.

Colleagues,

I must encourage you to take this opportunity to share your ideas openly and seek new partnerships.

Your work here will guide progress on aviation safety in this region and beyond.

By demonstrating how to achieve excellence in aviation safety in these times of dramatic growth and change, Asia-Pacific can lead 21st century air transport worldwide.

Thank you.