

ASSEMBLY — 35TH SESSION

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

Agenda Item 29: Facilitation

**REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF INCHEON
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

(Presented by the Republic of Korea)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This paper provides information on operation status of the Incheon International Airport that was opened on 29 March 2001, and the efforts given by the Government and the airport operator to improve its function and facilities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Incheon International Airport (IIA) opened in March 2001 to replace the international function of Gimpo International Airport that had reached its full capacity due to the rapid increase in the number of international passengers since the 1990s. With the smooth opening and operation of the IIA as well as up-to-date facilities, the government of the Republic of Korea is continuously making concerted efforts to improve facilitation and services at the IIA.

1.2 The IIA, located 52 km west from the center of Seoul City and 15 km northwest from Incheon City, sits on 1.174 hectares of reclaimed land. The 24-hour operational airport has two runways, one passenger terminal and three cargo terminals, and is now in the Phase 2 expansion. When the expansion is completed in 2008, its capacity will be increased to 410,000 flights from 240,000 flights, 44 million passengers from 30 million passengers, and 4.5 million tons of cargo from 2.7 million tons annually.

1.3 At the IIA, 50 airlines operate 2,750 flights a week to 115 cities in 37 countries. In 2003, the IIA handled about 20 million passengers and 1.9 million metric tons of cargo. In terms of transshipment of cargo, the IIA handled 46% of the total, which means the IIA has great potential as an air cargo hub in the region. Transit passengers accounted for 13% of the total.

1.4 At present, the Republic of Korea has a very strong administrative drive to become the northeast Asia business and economic center. As a part of this effort, the 5,116-hectare of airport area was designated as one of the several Free Economic Zones in August 2003. The Free Economic Zone will provide a better foreign business environment and enhanced living conditions for foreigners.

1.1 The IIA is called to play a leading role in attaining its goal of making the Republic of Korea the business and economy center, and commercial gateway to northeast Asia. To help reach this target, the IIA is focussed on the development of the Airport Logistics Park and the expansion of the cargo terminal area to attract global players. The IIA is also improving cargo processing to achieve full night operations and fast reliable cargo handling.

2. BETTER FACILITATION AND QUALITY OF SERVICES

2.1 In December 2003, the IIA organized the Service Coordination Committee as recommended by ICAO. The Committee consists of representatives from 10 relevant authorities and airline operators to systematically cooperate for better services. The Committee is dedicated to set the performance indicators of the IIA operations and monitor the achievement.

2.2 For better service to passengers, the IIA began to operate the Passenger Forecast System beginning in February 2004. Based on passenger flow data, the system predicts the number of passengers that will use each of the departure gates. The CIQ agencies can deploy the proper number of staff in advance to provide faster and better service to passengers by saving queuing time.

3. IMPROVEMENT OF ILS AND PASSENGER CONVENIENCE

3.1 Just two years after its opening, the IIA upgraded its instrument landing system (ILS) to become Asia's first CAT III-b airport.

3.2 For transit/transfer passengers with layovers at the terminal, personal data communication equipment and convenience facilities are continuously being renovated. In addition, a special City Tour Program for transit passengers will be provided soon.

4. AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECTS AND GREATER AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

4.1 The 2nd phase construction started in 2002 and will be completed in 2008 to meet the future aviation demand in the region. The project includes the construction of an additional runway, a new 32-gate concourse, and the expansion of the cargo terminal area.

4.2 Investments from the private sector are also actively being sought for greater airport development. Within the 33 hectares of the International Business Center and close to the main passenger terminal, two 5-star hotels, four office buildings and one shopping mall are already open or will open soon. A golf course is already in operation and more golf courses will open in 2006 within the airport area.

4.3 The IIA has three cargo terminals operated by the Republic of Korea's two national carriers— Korean Air and Asiana Airlines — as well as foreign airlines. The two national carrier cargo terminals are being expanded. DHL Worldwide Express (DHL) and TNT submitted letters of intent to the government of the Republic of Korea last year to build a distribution center at the IIA to increase their shipping capacity in the region.

4.4 The Airport Logistics Park adjacent to the cargo terminal area is inviting air cargo forwarders and logistics players. The park is slated for commercial operation in 2006

5. **ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY**

5.1 The Assembly is invited to note the Republic of Korea' s strong support for improving the essential capacity of facilitation and practices recommended by ICAO.

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