

**ICAO Traveller Identification Programme, Regional Seminar
Hong Kong, SAR
Opening remarks by ACI
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Good morning, and thank you for inviting me here to speak among industry partners. Airports Council International (ACI) is an observer to TRIP and we are delighted to now be engaging more actively as discussants.

ACI is pleased to report the health of the aviation industry. 2016 was a strong growth year for passenger traffic worldwide despite the continuing economic uncertainties and global attacks on aviation. Volume reached a record 7.6 billion with a 5.6% increase over 2015 traffic. In the Asia-Pacific region, total passenger volume reached a staggering 9.0%.

Like others, we forecast passenger traffic to more than double in the next 15 years: from 7.6 billion in 2016 to over 14 billion by 2030, with much of this growth coming from emerging markets. The latter currently makes up 33% of global passenger traffic, but in less than two decades will represent some 45% of global passenger traffic.

Passenger processes will need to change dramatically in the near future to cope with this projected air traffic growth. Governments, airports, airlines and their contractors and suppliers will increasingly be challenged to optimize the use of emerging technologies, processes and design developments—not least through enhanced traveller identification capabilities, in particular the adoption of automated border controls as called for in the ICAO TRIP Strategy, to facilitate the movement of passengers through the airport terminal. In this regard, ACI applauds ICAO for taking leadership in establishing standards in electronic passports, and on this basis, developing a strategy to help State authorities authenticate travel documents in a world that is increasingly threatened by terrorist attacks.

For those who don't know, ACI, as one of its strategic objectives, has a mission to represent the interests of the world's airports. This is done through continuous engagement with decision makers in national authorities, with international government organizations—most notably ICAO—and with other industry representative bodies.

Traveller identification is an area pertinent across the industry—to airports, airlines, regulators and governments. We share a common objective: to integrate systems and improve operations in the most secure, effective and sustainable manner for the benefit of passengers and businesses alike.

And we can help in a very practical way: ACI North America and Airside Mobile in partnership with U.S. Customs and Border Protection have developed the ***Mobile Passport App***. It allows eligible travelers to submit their passport information and customs declaration form via an iOS or Android device prior to U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspection.

Looking forward, we hope air travel will provide a *seamless journey* through the sharing of data and capability to offer increased off-site processing options; reduced queues; and more efficient use of space and resources through enhanced use of artificial intelligence and robotics. And of course, improved processes in traveler identification is, and will continue to be, a top priority in providing a seamless journey.

Toward this goal, ACI through the World Facilitation and Services Standing Committee is engaging with ICAO in their next Facilitation Panel meeting. We will be there to ensure that the voice of our Member airports, from all regions of the globe, are heard.

And, through the ACI's World Airport Smart Identity Task Force, ACI is expected to collaborate with the ICAO TRIP Secretariat to focus on the use of biometrics in the airport passenger process to ease the end-to-end journey. Passengers will soon be able to register at the first touch point at the airport or off-airport, enabling them to pass through subsequent touch points without having to present their boarding pass. We are very encouraged by the Happy Flow trials in Aruba.

For airports, improving the traveller identification processes is vital to our sustainable growth. While change is the new constant, one thing is certain: new tools will continue to offer more options, and as passengers become increasingly comfortable with digital services they expect that they be tailored to their different travel experiences. And those airports that are best able to cater to passenger needs will have an advantage over their competitors.

You can be assured that ACI will be there every step of the way, helping our Member airports through our various services and guidance material, ensuring they have the necessary tools to succeed.

Thank you.