

**Welcome Remarks by
Mr. Simon LI, DGCA
At the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme
(ICAO TRIP) Regional Seminar
11 July 2017, Tuesday (0930 hrs.)
Auditorium, CAD Headquarters**

Dr Fang LIU, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization,

Mr. DONG Zhiyi, Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aviation Administration of China,

Mr. Joseph LAI, Permanent Secretary (Transport), of the Transport and Housing Bureau, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Hong Kong, China,

Mr. Sylvain Lefoyer, Deputy Director, Aviation Security and Facilitation, Air Transport Bureau, International Civil Aviation Organization,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning. A warm welcome to you all for participating in this ICAO TRIP Regional Seminar hosted by the Civil Aviation Department of Hong Kong, China. And we are especially delighted and honoured to have the Secretary General Dr Fang LIU, the Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, Mr. DONG Zhiyi, and the Permanent Secretary of Transport, Mr Joseph Lai, to join us to officiate the opening of the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Regional Seminar.

First of all, we must thank the ICAO for giving us the opportunity to host this event at the Civil Aviation Department Headquarters. It is our pleasure to provide our facilities for our aviation partners, including passport issuing agencies, aviation security authorities, border control and law enforcement authorities, as well as airlines, airport authorities and other interested parties, to share experience on ICAO TRIP strategies.

It is indeed encouraging to see that we have over **200** participants from more than **45** countries around the world attending this Seminar.

Since 2013, the ICAO has held a TRIP Seminar every year in different Regions. It is our honour that the **first** TRIP Seminar in the Asia Pacific Region is being held in Hong Kong, China this year.

This is a special year for us in Hong Kong as it is the **20th Anniversary** of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region In China. We have the honour to include this ICAO TRIP Seminar as an event to celebrate our 20th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and have the 20th Anniversary logo displayed on stage and souvenirs.

Hong Kong, China is geographically located in the heart of Asia and we are at the cross road between East and West. Half of the world's population can be reached **within just five hours**. At present, around 110 airlines operate from the Hong Kong International Airport. The Civil Aviation Department handles over **2,000** flights everyday with some **1,100** flights landing and taking off at the Hong Kong International Airport and around 900 flights overflying Hong Kong. Hong Kong China is connected to more than **200** destinations around the world (including **42** destinations in the Mainland China).

Our airport has been the **world's busiest cargo hub for 7 consecutive years**, and is the **third busiest** international passenger airport. Last year, the airport handled over **70** million passengers and **4.5** million tonnes of cargo.

The rapid development of the aviation industry in the Asia Pacific Region, including China demands a holistic, coherent, coordinated approach towards traveller identification management.

May I encourage you to actively participate in the discussions, and exchange ideas on effective procedures to facilitate airport operations as well as passenger travel. I would also like to express my special appreciation to our Speakers, Moderators and Exhibitors for your valuable time to share your knowledge and experiences. Together, may we work together and make continuing progress on traveller identification management.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Airport Authority Hong Kong for sponsoring all catering and transportation services for this TRIP Seminar. Their generous sponsorship has demonstrated their support and commitment to ICAO's initiatives.

In closing, may I wish this Seminar every success. I hope you will all have an enriching experience in the next three days. Thank you.