



13th ACI Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly Opens in Narita, Japan

[April 24, 2018 – Narita, Japan] The 13th ACI Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly, Conference & Exhibition opened today in Narita, Japan. The event is hosted by Narita International Airport and organized by ACI Asia-Pacific, welcoming over 500 delegates from over 40 countries and a sold-out exhibition.

Aviation professionals are gathered in Narita this week to attend the annual assembly of ACI Asia-Pacific. The official opening held earlier today was attended by Mr. Kazuo Yana, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, Mr. Wataru Takahashi, Chiba Prefectural Vice-Governor, Mr. Makoto Natsume, President & CEO of Narita International Airport Corporation and Mr. Seow Hiang Lee, President of ACI Asia-Pacific.

Mr. Makoto Natsume, President and CEO of Narita International Airport Corporation (NAA), commemorating the airport's 40th anniversary in May, thanked the distinguished guests and expressed NAA's great privilege for the opportunity to host the assembly and extended their hearty welcome to the participants.

He wished the participants a pleasant and fruitful assembly to feel and experience the four pillar concepts of their airport, "applying the cutting-edge technology", "in preparation for hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics games", "support to promote inbound tourism" and "strengthen Narita Airport's competitive advantage and role".

He closed his welcome speech by stressing that most importantly, NAA will continue to place importance on the rapport with the various stakeholders, strive to offer an airport that is safe and convenient and chosen by its customer.

Also speaking at the official opening, Mr. Seow Hiang Lee, President of ACI Asia-Pacific thanked the host, Narita International Airport for their gracious hospitality and support. He also thanked delegates for their support in establishing the event as one of the signature events in the region, in which airports, airlines, regulators and industry associations are gathered from around the world. He anticipates the two days of discussions and networking opportunities would generate innovative prospects for ACI members and business partners.

He also commented on the outlook of the industry and how Asia-Pacific, including the Middle East, is one of the fastest growing regions, characterized by its diversity, economically and geographically. ACI remains committed to maintaining and enhancing aviation safety and security, and will work closely with ICAO, regulators and industry stakeholders to address the challenges that lay ahead.

Mr. Kazuo Yana, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and Mr. Wataru Takahashi, Chiba Prefectural Vice-Governor also warmly welcomed the delegates from around the world to Chiba Prefecture to attend this important aviation event.

The official opening was followed by a keynote address by Takashi Niino, President and CEO (Representative Director), NEC Corporation. Other highlights of the day's programme included panel discussions on Sustainable Tourism in Japan: Stimulating Economic Growth Through Tourism Development, and Airport Industry Beyond 2020 and Airport Privatization – To be or Not to be.

The event was preceded by a pre-conference forum on Smart Security yesterday which shared insights on how airports can strengthen security measures without compromising passenger experience.

A welcome reception yesterday also ushered in the official opening of the exhibition which drew a record-breaking number of exhibitors, ranging from world-class airports, to leading service providers and suppliers, featuring the latest products, services and technologies offered in the airport industry.

The event will continue tomorrow with a keynote address by Stephen Perkins, Head of Research & Policy Analysis, International Transport Forum at the OECD. Other conference sessions will include topics on Airport Capacity Expansion Plans in Asia and the Impact on International Air Transport; Technology Innovation on Airport Operations and New Trends Affecting Airport Business.

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About Airports Council International Asia-Pacific

ACI Asia-Pacific, one of the five regions of the Airports Council International (ACI), is based in Hong Kong and represents 106 members operating 603 airports in 49 countries in Asia-Pacific and the Middle-East.

As the only global trade association of the world's airports, ACI represents airports' interests with governments and international organizations, develops standards, policies and recommended practices for airports, and provides information and training opportunities to raise standards around the world. In 2016, ACI Asia-Pacific airports have handled 3.1 billion passengers and 52.2 million tonnes of cargo.

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