

ICAO Traveller Identification Programme Regional Seminar

11 July 2017

Welcome Remarks by PS(T)

Secretary-General LIU, Dr DONG, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning. On behalf of the HKSAR Government, let me first extend a warm welcome to you all for participating in the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Regional Seminar organised by the Civil Aviation Department of Hong Kong. We are truly honoured to host this Seminar, which is convened for the very first time in the Asia Pacific region. It is even more meaningful to us as this Seminar is convened in the 20th anniversary for the Reunification of Hong Kong to the Mainland China. Allow me to thank in particular, Dr Fang LIU, Secretary General of ICAO and Dr Zhiyi DONG, Deputy Administrator of Civil Aviation Administration of China, for joining and honouring this Seminar today.

2. Air transport used to be an elite travelling means affordable only to a few. Thanks to technological advancement, visionary entrepreneurs and the joint efforts of the global aviation community, the aviation industry has leapfrogged

both in quantity and quality in the past few decades. Today, buying air-ticket and getting boarding card can all be done by tapping your smart phone. The global air traffic volume has expanded by 40% in the past 10 years¹, and yet the trend shows no sign of receding. To regulate such a vibrant industry, civil aviation authorities around the world need to take on more challenges to keep up with the pace of the industry.

3. Today, there are two major challenges upon us, namely safety and efficiency. As the free flow of people and cargo across international and regional borders continue to be spurred by globalisation, the challenge for us to ensure safety and security in the process has never been so mammoth. In the wake of current international political tensions and the risk of terrorism, the need for reliable security and safety measures in the aviation sector has never been more pressing. This is why traveller identification deserves our serious attention at this Seminar. I encourage our experts here today to share their insight on how to improve traveller identification both to enhance safety and efficiency of international air traffic. I am eager to learn from your collective wisdom.

¹ According to IAIA's statistics, flights operated by global commercial airlines have grown from 25.5 million in 2006 to 35.8 million in 2016. The financial crisis in 2009 had withheld the growth a bit.

4. Hong Kong has the world's busiest cargo and the third busiest international passenger airport, which explains why we are a staunch supporter of ICAO's initiatives. We always render our contribution in whatever means we could. Earlier this year, we set up the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy to nurture aviation talents. In collaboration with the National School of Civil Aviation of France, the Academy will jointly launch a master degree programme in air transport management by the end of this year to train aviation professionals in Hong Kong and those from the region. We hope that the programme could help build up a regional talent pool, especially for countries along the Belt and Road, so as to enhance the aviation standard as a whole.

5. Furthermore, echoing the ICAO "No Country Left Behind" campaign, Hong Kong and France signed, just last month, a Protocol of Cooperation on Capacity Building and Safety Enhancement in Civil Aviation. This Protocol represents Hong Kong's commitment to support capacity building for the aviation sectors in the Southeast Asian region. In collaboration with the French Government and other education and training institutions in Hong Kong, we will offer training programmes covering aviation security, airport management, air traffic management and the like. We will continue to engage our aviation

partners in the region and help improve safety standards and efficiency collaboratively under ICAO's guidance.

6. Let me wish you all a successful seminar and fruitful discussion.

Thank you!