

Civil Aviation Symposium 2025

The Future of Aviation Connectivity Powered by Japan-US-ASEAN Collaboration (3/26/2025)



As the world continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, global aviation demand is rebounding, with the Asia-Pacific region also expected to return to pre-pandemic levels soon. Amid rising geopolitical tensions, strengthening regional aviation networks is essential not only for economic prosperity but also for sustainable growth, stability, and economic security.

Meeting growing demand requires urgent efforts to expand airport infrastructure, enhance air traffic management, and secure skilled personnel, while ensuring environmental sustainability.

This symposium discussed specific approaches to strengthening aviation connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region in light of these developments:

- The aviation environment is increasingly complex and uncertain. Strengthening Asia-Pacific connectivity is vital for both geopolitical stability and economic security.
- Japan is reinforcing its role as a hub linking the U.S. and ASEAN, while ASEAN continues to drive regional growth. Stronger Asia-Pacific–U.S. connectivity is strategically important, with hopes that today's "golden age" of U.S.-Japan relations evolves into a new "golden age" of aviation cooperation.
- Bilateral air relations underpin trade, travel, tourism, and investment, and aviation policy also shapes broader industrial and security cooperation. The U.S. seeks to expand connectivity with Indo-Pacific partners, strengthen supply chains, and promote commercial growth. Japan is advancing efforts to meet rising demand and realize sustainable air connectivity.
- For U.S. travelers, Japan serves as a key gateway to Asia. Haneda continues to strengthen its role as an international hub, while Narita plays an essential role in linking the U.S. and the Asia-Pacific, particularly Southeast Asia. Expanding airport capacity in the Tokyo area is crucial, and Narita's enhancement complements limits at Haneda.
- Expanding passenger demand requires creating new "reasons to fly." Addressing air traffic control capacity, overflight access, and sustainability is essential, along with improving labor conditions and securing aviation personnel. Cooperation with ASEAN—through open skies, safety data sharing, and technology use—will be key, alongside continued efforts to address aircraft delivery delays and decarbonization.

