

Hyun-Mee Kim
Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea

Honorable Director General and CEO of the International Air Transport Association,
Mr. Alexandre de Juniac,
Chairman and CEO of Korean Air, Mr. Won-tae Cho,
European Commissioner for Mobility and Transport, Ms. Violeta Bulc,
Director General of the Airports Council International, Ms. Angela Gittens,

And CEOs of IATA members and delegations from many countries who have traveled long distances from every corner of the globe,
it is a great pleasure to meet you all.

I wholeheartedly welcome you to the Republic of Korea and express my deepest gratitude.

I am pleased to witness Korea's first hosting of the IATA Annual General Meeting, which has been called the "UN General Assembly for the field of aviation."

IATA was established in 1945 as the successor to the International Air Traffic Association.

Considering the fact that the International Air Traffic Association was established in 1919, when the first nonstop transatlantic flight was successfully completed, the history of IATA stretches back over one hundred years.

In the past century, IATA has made a significant contribution to the development of the global aviation industry as well as to the strengthening of aviation safety and improvements in aviation policies and regulations.

I would like to thank and applaud all the members of IATA who have supported growth of the aviation industry and will lead us into the future.

The Republic of Korea's aviation industry has also achieved remarkable growth thanks to the support of IATA and its members, as well as to efforts made by airlines like Korean Air.

Seventy years after a small six-seater airplane first flew the air route between Seoul and Busan,

a total of 93 airlines now closely connect the Republic of Korea to 183 cities in 53 countries around the world.

Though Korea ranks 109th in the world in terms of physical area, the network of air routes crisscrossing Korean airspace is the seventh largest in the world.

Furthermore, the Republic of Korea transports approximately 120 million passengers annually, and Incheon International Airport, which opened its second passenger terminal last year, has grown into one of top five airports in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to IATA and its member airlines once again for their great support in the development of Korea's aviation industry.

The global aviation industry has developed at a faster rate than most other industries, and is expected to more than double over the next 20 years.

More than one-third of global aviation demand is concentrated in the Asian region, and the Northeast Asian region, which includes Korea, expects to see an annual 6% increase in demand for aviation services.

Along with the growth of the aviation industry, there have been calls for the expansion of infrastructure and the fostering of aviation personnel. It has grown increasingly important to jointly seek solutions and respond to the variety of current issues, such as aviation safety, security, and the protection of consumers.

In this regard, I believe that the theme of IATA AGM and WATS in Seoul — The Vision for the Future — is very timely.

I sincerely hope that this meeting will be able to discover the vision for the future of the aviation industry and also share our extensive experiences between our countries and airlines, so that the whole aviation industry can make another leap forward.

Distinguished Guests,

The Republic of Korea has striven to achieve balanced and sustainable development of the global aviation industry as an ICAO Council Member State since 2001.

In order to make further contributions to the development of the global aviation industry, we look forward to being re-elected this year. We appreciate your support in this regard.

There are four beautiful seasons in Korea, which boasts a history stretching back

5,000 years.

Please enjoy the beauty and heartwarming hospitality of Seoul, where tradition and the state-of-the-art co-exist in harmony.

I would like to once again welcome all distinguished guests to the Republic of Korea, and hope that your visit to Korea will be a memorable one.

Thank you.