

## **Rt. Honorable Prime Minister's Speech**

To the participants of the 56<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Civil Aviation  
Directors General of Asia Pacific region

Namaste and very good morning to all!

Mr. President of the ICAO Council,  
Honorable Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr.  
Yogesh Bhattarai,  
Honorable State Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation  
Minister Mr. Dhana Bahadur Budha,  
Regional Director of ICAO Asia and Pacific Regions,  
Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia Pacific Region,  
Distinguished guests,  
Friends from media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to this 56<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia and Pacific Regions organized in our beautiful country Nepal, the country of Himalayas which is rich in natural and cultural heritage, ethnicity, landscapes, flora & fauna and many more. I would like to express my best wishes for the grand success of this very important conference where more than 350 distinguished friends from 44 countries are gathered to discuss in the areas of regional concerns and benefits. Further, I would also like to congratulate ICAO on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary after its establishment in 1944.

Our feelings, commitments and efforts are almost similar. We want to strengthen particularly the safety in the field of civil aviation and for that, we have developed common rules, regulations based on the policies and provisions laid by ICAO and we are strictly following them from where we can develop and strengthen the safety and security of civil aviation.

In the past, we were particularly in the phase of political struggle to establish a democratic system. Now, we have established a Federal Democratic-Republican system. We promulgated the best constitution through the Constituent Assembly, well represented by different sectors and almost all sections of the society. And now we entered into the phase of implementing the constitution. For that, we held the election of all three tiers of the federal system. Now, we have altogether three tiers of functional Government, one Federal, seven Provincial and 753 Local governments.

We started our journey towards economic development, now with economic growth of 7.1%. We must develop many sectors in a balanced way, the sectors include agriculture, industry, trade, tourism, infrastructures, health and education, information technology, artificial intelligence, etc. Among them, the tourism sector is very important for us. Our national desire is 'Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali'. Prosperity itself cannot mean happiness. To be happy, people must feel that they are also secure, and they have respectful life too. The tourism sector is a very important for economic growth which provides an abundance of opportunities to fulfill the national desire.

Nepal is known as the country of Sagarmatha, the real name of Mount Everest where more than 14 Himalayan peaks are already 8000m above the sea level. 45% of our land is dedicated for forest to maintain and protect the environment, climate, and ecosystem, and 17% of our land is dedicated to the mountains, the Himalayas. The Himalayan range, the home for the various herbal plants, plays a role in the natural cooling and recharge system as it protects layers of ice and snow from melting which could have been the challenging issue of climate change.

Our country is rich in geographical and cultural diversities- the attraction for many tourists. If the entire world knows the importance

of Nepal but if we have no connectivity, then we cannot provide opportunity for the world to see Nepal and its specialties. So, global connectivity has very significance to us. For the efficient connectivity, the faster means of transportation i.e., air transportation is very essential.

In the past 10 years, we have doubled the population of tigers and 'Gaidas' (original name of the one-horned rhino). Thus, our country is adorned by the beautiful mountains and by the habitats of animals like elephants, rhinos, tigers, etc. with lots of potentials for the natural tourism. So, we want to develop our tourism by strengthening our civil aviation sector.

It is our commitment that we are ready to work together with you all to develop safety measures in this field, to develop rules and regulations, and to develop friendship and cooperation among us. As this is the policy of the Government of Nepal, I am requesting the regional director of ICAO as well as Directors General of the Asia-Pacific Region and the whole world to work together.

We are trying to develop our airports. Two new international airports are about to come like Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa is in completion phase. Similarly, an international airport in Pokhara, a very touristic destination is also rapidly being constructed. We are developing Kathmandu airport as a boutique airport. When you arrive here, you will see a glimpse of our history, culture and our efforts of modernization at the airport.

Without taking much time, I would like to appreciate your participation, and I wish your stay in Kathmandu and Nepal be very fruitful, pleasant, memorable and comfortable too. Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes for the successful completion of the conference.

Thank you very much!