



**Address by the Secretary General of ICAO
Mr. Raymond Benjamin
Inauguration of the ASTC Seoul**

(Seoul, 29 March 2011)

It is both a pleasure and an honour for me to inaugurate the Korea Airports Corporation (KAC) training facility as an ICAO Aviation Security Training Centre (ASTC).

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Kwang-Jae Kim, the Deputy Minister for Civil Aviation, to Mr. Si-Chul Sung, the President and CEO of KAC, and to all those who contributed to making this project a reality.

Events of the past year or so have dramatically reminded us that the global air transport system remains a key target for terrorist attacks. There is more than ever a need to maintain a high level of vigilance for preventing acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation, whatever the source.

Aviation security evolves in a fast-paced environment, where threats and risks change constantly. This often leaves States very little time to react. Security personnel are quite literally the last line of defence, thereby emphasizing the critical role of training.

This was reinforced last October when the 37th Session of the ICAO Assembly unanimously adopted the Declaration on Aviation Security. The Declaration urges States to enhance international cooperation in order to counter evolving threats to civil aviation. Significantly, it recognizes the essential role of human factors and training in an effective, globally-harmonized aviation security regime.

For many years, ICAO has actively supported States in implementing the international aviation security measures contained in Annex 17. A key element of our assistance programme is the establishment of a worldwide network of Aviation Security Training Centres, covering all ICAO regions and languages. The ASTCs use ICAO training materials that are continually updated to reflect the evolving Standards, best practices and other aviation security developments.

With today's opening of ASTC Seoul, there are now 20 ICAO ASTCs providing high quality, standardized training for the world's aviation security workforce.

As a major operator of international and domestic airports, Korea Airports Corporation appreciates the importance of implementing security measures in an effective manner. It recognizes that deployment of a workforce with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies is not possible without training staff according to international standards.

Considering its long experience in providing civil aviation training, including security training since 1999, the endorsement of the KAC facility as an ICAO ASTC was the next logical step. ASTC Seoul will become a valuable member of ICAO's global training network. With its modern infrastructure, capable instructors, relevant experience and emphasis on excellence, Seoul will greatly support ICAO in its training and supporting role.

In fact, in February 2011, the Directors of all ASTCs and the ICAO Secretariat met in Quito to discuss and coordinate global aviation security training for the coming year. The group focused on the need for cooperation and coordination between the ASTCs in light of future challenges in aviation security. ASTC Seoul contributed to the discussions of this group, which benefited from KAC's long and rich history as a training institution.

In closing, let me once more welcome ASTC Seoul to the growing family of ICAO Aviation Security Training Centres around the world. For me it is an exciting moment to see the ICAO flag proudly exhibited here.

Again, many thanks to all those who made it possible.

END —