

## Changi Aviation Summit: ICAO's new leader signals major transformations for air transport

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**Dhaka: Newly appointed ICAO Council President Toshiyuki Onuma has signaled the opening of a new era for international aviation through his first public address, seizing the spotlight at the Changi Aviation Summit in Singapore to set out how ICAO will transform global air transport through its Long-Term Strategic Plan for 2050. His leadership of international civil aviation will be defined by a coordinated push for safer skies, cleaner growth, and broader access, read a press release of ICAO on Monday, February 2.**

Onuma has stepped into the role as the industry experiences a surge in demand, particularly across Asia and the Pacific, where annual passenger traffic is rising at rates unmatched anywhere else. His address connected this growth to these new ambitions for the sector,

underscoring how the projected tripling of global passenger numbers by mid-century requires urgent action now. In parallel, he acknowledged that aviation is undergoing rapid and dramatic change, driven by new technologies, evolving markets, and rising expectations for sustainability and accessibility.

“We must see change as an opportunity for growth,” Onuma remarked. “We have a shared commitment through the ICAO Long-Term Strategic Plan. We must use it to coordinate and align our efforts to transform aviation.”

Backed by 32 unanimous resolutions at last year’s ICAO Assembly, the plan lays out highly ambitious yet realistic aspirations: zero fatalities, net zero emissions, and universal access to air transport. The president described how these objectives will be pursued through practical steps, such as upgrading oversight, investing in skills, and accelerating innovation, which will be enabled by ICAO’s new partnerships and financial tools like the recently launched Finvest Hub.

With Asia-Pacific serving as both a proving ground and a source of momentum, he pointed to Singapore’s leadership in digital transformation and sustainable aviation as an example of the kind of progress ICAO is encouraging worldwide.

Throughout his speech, the President placed the emphasis on collective action and regional cooperation, in line with ICAO’s role in supporting the full participation of lesser developed countries and emerging markets.

In this way, the 2050 plan will ensure that aviation’s rapid growth translates into durable gains for all people and economies, and for the planet.

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