

Congratulatory Message by Mr. HORII Iwao, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the reception to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Japan's accession to ICAO in Montreal,
Canada

Good evening. I'm HORII Iwao, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Japan's accession to ICAO, I'd like to extend my congratulations.

As the movement of people becomes active again after the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of ICAO to ensure the safety and development of international civil aviation has been reaffirmed by the international community. I'd like to express my sincere respect for the efforts of President Sciacchitano, Secretary General Salazar, ICAO member states and ICAO Secretariat.

President Sciacchitano's visit to Japan in the end of May is a clear indication of the importance that Japan attaches to ICAO's activities. During his visit, he exchanged views with high-level government officials and executives in Japanese aviation industry, university students and the media. Though this programme, President Sciacchitano gained a deep understanding of Japan's efforts in international cooperation in aviation and environmental protection. President Sciacchitano also introduced various activities of ICAO to Japanese people.

In addition to its activities in formulating and ensuring international rules in civil aviation, ICAO has been playing a leading role in addressing global issues such as climate change and technological advancement in aviation.

Furthermore, ICAO has been discussing the repeated missile launches by North Korea and Russia's aggression against Ukraine from the perspective of ensuring the safety of civil aviation. This makes ICAO's responsibility and role that protects air safety even more important in the turbulent world. As a member of the ICAO Council, Japan has been actively contributing to ICAO for many years.

As Japan marks the 70th anniversary of the ICAO-Japan relationship, we renew our strong will to make positive contributions to the development of civil aviation in the world. Together with our colleagues in the ICAO community, we will continue to lead discussions at ICAO. We look forward to working hand in hand with you.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere wishes for the health of all and for the further development of ICAO-Japan relations. Thank you very much.