

## Asian Passenger Plane Forum 2007 in Tokyo

### Summary

The objective of the “Promotion of Development of a small to medium-sized Jet Passenger Plane” project being implemented by the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 is to realize the co-development of a uniquely Asian small to medium-sized jet passenger plane by employing the technological expertise of Asian countries. In order to achieve this, it will be indispensable to have not only the cooperation of the aircraft manufacturers who would play the main role in developing, manufacturing and marketing the aircraft, but also the support and cooperation of government in each participating country. Since the holding of the “Asian Passenger Plane Forum 2002 in Tokyo” in October 2002, international meetings for this project have been held on an annual basis, and these have deepened the deliberations aimed at realizing an Asian jet passenger plane.

At the present time, stimulated perhaps by the debate over this project, moves within the Japanese domestic aircraft sector towards the realization of a Japanese jet passenger plane have become very lively. The holding on this occasion of the “Asian Passenger Plane Forum 2007 in Tokyo” has had the objectives of publicizing the achievements of this joint enterprise to date, and of creating a movement for the realization of an Asian jet passenger plane from Tokyo by outlining the state of development of the Japanese jet passenger plane project. The Forum has brought together Asian government officials, aircraft manufacturers, general trading companies, airlines, research institutions, and representatives from the aviation sector.

In the morning, a working level conference was held. The participants were Japanese members of the Investigative Committee, Asian aircraft manufacturers and research institutions. At the meeting, discussions were held on the recommendation outline which is planned to be settled by the Examination Committee for the “Promotion of Development of a small to medium-sized Jet Passenger Plane” by the beginning of next year.

The three proposals being presented are as follows:

- A 100-seat jet passenger plane combining the technologies of Japan and Asia is the symbol of cooperation in Asia.
- To make a success of the Japanese jet passenger plane, and as the first step towards the realization of an Asian jet passenger plane, the support of national governments will be needed.
- The Asian jet passenger plane is to be positioned as an Asian project, and Japan is to play a leadership role.

Also new arrangements were outlined whereby Tokyo Metropolitan University would accept exchange students from Asia, and joint research would be carried out via

collaboration between industry, academia and government, with the aim of building people networks for the realization of an Asian jet passenger plane and of raising the technological capabilities of Asia as a whole.

Opinions were voiced among overseas participants saying that they would like reference to be made as to how Asian countries outside of the participating cities could become involved in the realization of an Asian jet passenger plane, and that a general outline on cultivation of aerospace engineers through cooperative study should be given at the 6th Plenary Meeting of the ANMC21 in Manila.

Following the working level conference, the Forum was held in the afternoon at Tomin Hall(Citizens' Hall)

This Forum featured broad participation from the general public , Japanese airlines, Asian airlines, and aviation industry representatives from Japan and Asia.

The Governor of Tokyo, Mr. Shintaro Ishihara, offered the following address at the Forum.

“Asian countries possess great technological prowess in regards to aircraft. Let us combine the capabilities of Asia and build an outstanding passenger plane to demonstrate Asia's presence. By combining the strengths of Asia we can secure a market.”

A report on the results of the project to date was then presented, and this stressed the importance of positioning the development of an Asian jet passenger plane as an Asian project through Japan's leadership.

A number of presentations were then delivered on various topics, including the entry of small and medium-sized companies into the aircraft industry, the current state of overseas aircraft manufacturers, an introduction to the MRJ which is being anticipated as the first Japanese passenger plane since the YS-11, and the conversion of the P-X and C-X military aircraft for civil use.

The project will utilize the results of this Forum, and promote the development of an Asian passenger plane by continuing to seek the strong support of government in each participating country, while deepening industrial collaboration especially among aircraft manufacturers.