

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) encouraged China to continue to develop its air transport sector by ensuring sufficient capacity based on global standards and best practices.

Air transport plays a critical role in China's economic development. "China is looking to increase its share of world trade from 10.4% to 15%. Aviation connectivity will be critical to making that happen. Already it is prioritizing investments in airport and air navigation infrastructure. The challenge is to keep pace with rapidly growing demand, based on the global standards which underpin safe and efficient global connectivity," said Tony Tyler, IATA's Director General and CEO at the China Civil Aviation Development Forum 2012 in Beijing.

Tyler noted that China already ranks highly for the size of its air transport industry: second in the world for domestic passengers, seventh for international and fourth for international cargo. "But this is only the beginning. Of the 877 million additional global air travelers expected to fly in 2015 than in 2010, more than 212 million will be on journeys within or connected to China," said Tyler.

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