



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ATAG opposes cross-subsidisation plans for Japan's airports - demands better forecasting for airport projects -**

**30 July 2002 (TOKYO)** – The Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) expressed its opposition to the Japanese government's plans for privatising Japan's three major airports and urged reduced charges to keep Japan's airports competitive.

Speaking at a conference in Tokyo, ATAG Director Martina Priebe said that "only a user-driven approach to privatisation will permit the development of an appropriate infrastructure and keep charges at levels which are acceptable. Privatisation must not be an excuse to bail-out troubled airports at the expense of consumers and the airlines."

The Japanese Government is considering a privatisation plan that would create three private companies to operate terminal buildings at Narita, Nagoya and Kansai while consolidating the land development function in a single public corporation. "Such a plan would see airlines landing at Narita, subsidising facilities they are not using at other airports. This is clearly against internationally agreed principles and absolutely not acceptable," noted Priebe.

As the Japanese Government is considering its 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Airport Plan, ATAG urged that better demand forecasting practices be implemented. Failure to revise demand forecasts based on actual developments during the implementation stage of the planning has led to over-building of infrastructure in many areas. "Previous airport development plans have run into severe cost and efficiency problems simply because they failed to estimate and adapt to changing market requirements."

#### **NOTES:**

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**Full speech available on request by e-mail: [concila@iata.org](mailto:concila@iata.org)**

The Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) is an independent coalition of organisations throughout the air transport industry that have united to support aviation infrastructure development and capacity improvements in an environmentally-responsible manner. Its members include airports, airlines, manufacturers, air navigation services, airline pilot and air traffic controller unions, chambers of commerce, travel and tourism organisations, ground transportation and communications providers. Its funding members are Airbus, Boeing, CFM, IATA and Rolls-Royce.

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