

Increased Capacity

Interim Parallel Runway brings Huge Benefits

With the opening of the interim parallel runway on 18 April 2002, slot capacity at Narita Airport increased by nearly 50% from 135,000 to 200,000 slots. Narita's network also increased significantly as it welcomed a rush of new and additional services particularly on short-haul routes to Asia for the fiscal 2002 summer schedule. 16 airlines launched new services, bringing the total number of airlines servicing Narita to 68 from 41 countries and regions.

The opening of the new runway resulted in a year-on-year increase in aircraft movements of 37% at 176,365 in fiscal 2002. This was the highest figure on record and reflected the dramatic decrease in traffic in the previous fiscal year influenced by the September 11 terrorist attacks. 44,725 aircraft movements used the interim parallel runway (129 a day), operating at 70% of its total capacity of 65,000. The figures are encouraging, surpassing expectations

for the first year of operations.

International scheduled services accounted for just under 80% of movements on the interim parallel runway. The majority of these were China services with a 23.0% share followed by Southeast Asia and Korea services at 21.9% and 16.3% respectively. These three routes comprised 60% of services on the runway. This is largely due to the fact that the runway is only 2,180 meters in length and, therefore, can only accommodate mid-size aircraft on short-haul routes to Asia. 32.7% of these flights were by B767 aircraft while 19% were B777, and 12.6% were A300s.

Broader Domestic Service Network

The significant increase in the domestic network is one reason for the interest in the interim parallel runway. 3 commuter airlines, J-AIR(JAR), Nakanihon Airlines(NAL) and Fairinc(FRI) joined Narita's domestic network, boosting services from 4.5 flights a day on 4 routes (2 airlines) to 15 flights a day on 5.

Domestic aircraft movements soared, increasing to 2.5 times that of the previous fiscal year with a total of 10,976 on both runways.

Though the growth has been staggering, domestic services remain at around 50% of the annual slot capacity of 20,000 which is quadruple the capacity prior to the opening of the new runway. At present, there is still room for further growth and NAA and the local community are looking forward to more domestic services. This desire has been further encouraged by a new service launched on August 1 to Hiroshima (New Hiroshima Airport) and the promise of more services to other destinations such as Komatsu, Kagoshima, Okinawa.



Domestic Service Network

