

Bridging Nations

20 Years of ANA China Service

In 2006, more than 4.56 million people traveled between Japan and China; as the latter's economy continues to develop, we can expect even greater movement of people and materials between the two nations. ANA was the first Japanese airline to resume flights to China after the war, in 1972, and since inaugurating regular service in 1987 we have gradually expanded our network there. In April 2007 we marked the 20th anniversary of ANA's China service, a relationship that can be traced back to our second president, Kaheita Okazaki.



Second President Kaheita Okazaki



Kaheita Okazaki (left) talking with Premier Zhou Enlai
Photo: Kaheita Okazaki Memorial Museum

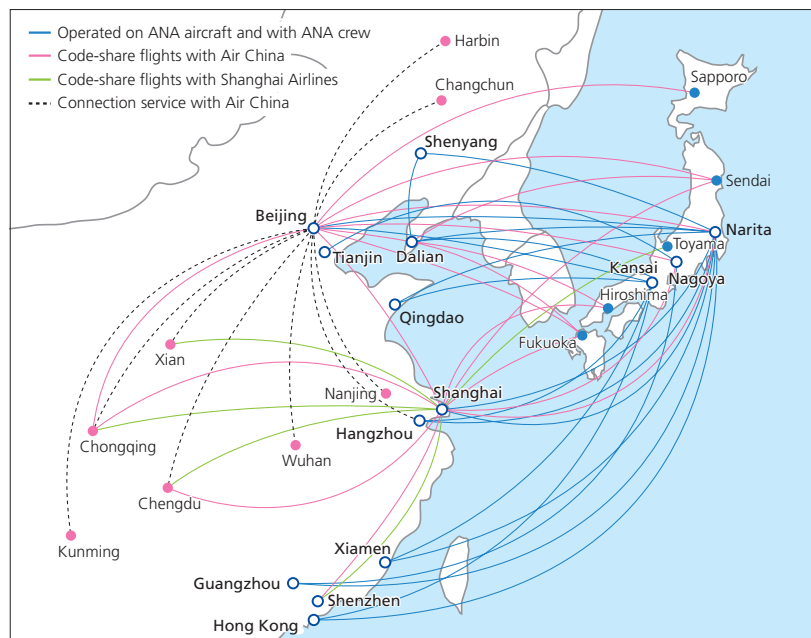
Promoting Good Relations

Okazaki was born in 1897 in Okayama and became interested in China at high school through a friend there named Chen Fanjiu. After graduating from Tokyo University in 1922, he started working at the Bank of Japan, which sent him to Shanghai for an extended period. While there he witnessed the turbulence of world affairs and learned the importance of friendship between foreign countries.

When he later entered industry, becoming president of ANA in 1961, Okazaki worked tirelessly to promote trade and cultural exchanges between Japan and China. He visited the country some 100 times, meeting with then-Premier Zhou Enlai and other senior officials and contributing to its friendly relations with Japan. When the two nations normalized ties in 1972, Premier Zhou Enlai himself commended Okazaki for his efforts, remarking that "In China we have a saying: when we drink water, we never forget who dug the well."

Twenty Years of China Service

ANA was the first Japanese airline to serve China after the war—a 1972 charter carrying the Shanghai Ballet Troupe from Haneda (Tokyo) to Hongqiao (Shanghai). At Hongqiao Airport, the ANA flight received an ardent musical welcome by an estimated 3,000 people. Soon after-



China Network as of August 2007



Ceremony at Narita Airport to inaugurate Narita-Dalian-Beijing service from April 1987



At the party to commemorate 20th anniversary of China service, Chairman Yoji Ohashi receiving a photo of Ms. Zhou and Kaheita Okazaki



ANA Blue Sky Hope Primary School students at Beijing Airport

wards, in September, Japan and China restored diplomatic relations.

In April 1987 ANA launched its Narita-Dalian-Beijing route as a scheduled service, and Okazaki visited China on its first flight. So highly regarded were his efforts for promoting good relations between Japan and China that a reception in his honor was held at the Great Hall of the People.

Since then we have expanded our China network to include Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang, Qingdao, Xiamen, Hangzhou and Guangzhou. Now we operate 20 passenger routes with 154 weekly flights; in 2006 some 1.36 million passengers flew the network. Currently 34 cargo flights per week serve 11 routes.

Donating Hope: A Primary School

In April 1997 ANA donated the ANA Blue Sky Hope Primary School to Luanping City, Hebei Province. This gesture was to show our appreciation of and support for Chinese culture and education, and coincided with the 10th anniversary of ANA's China service. The date also marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Okazaki, whose efforts led to the restoration of Japan's diplomatic relations with China in 1972. On the 30th anniversary of this event, in September 2002, ANA donated a second Hope Primary School to Xinglong City, Hebei Province.

The Okazaki Kaheita International Scholarship Foundation

Established in 1990 to promote personal development in Asian countries as advocated by Okazaki, the Foundation awards scholarships to students in China and Southeast Asian countries, invites them to Japan and offers support for graduate studies. To date the Foundation has awarded scholarships to more than 70 students; as teachers, civil servants and private-

sector employees, these graduates are now in positions to help strengthen ties between their home countries and Japan.

A Bridge Between Japan and China

Starting with our cooperation with Shanghai Airlines in April 2002 and later with Air China in February 2004, ANA has been establishing cooperative relationships with airlines in China. In May 2003, we started to employ Shanghai-based cabin attendants, expanding our base of operations. In September 2007, service between Haneda (Tokyo) and Hongqiao (Shanghai) was launched, drawing the two countries even closer. With these efforts and more, ANA is helping to connect people and businesses in Japan and China.



ANA Blue Sky Hope Primary School

Looking Forward to Your Continued Success, and to Our Continued Friendship

The year 2007 is an important one for us: it marks not only the 35th anniversary of normalized diplomatic relations between Japan and China, but also the 20th anniversary of ANA service to China, for which I offer my deepest congratulations.

ANA launched the first scheduled flight to China on April 16, 1987. As I recall it was the day of Kaheita Okazaki's 90th birthday. Mr. Okazaki was an old friend of China's and contributed greatly to mending diplomatic ties between our two countries through the Japan-China Trade Memorandum. When the two nations normalized ties in 1972, Premier Zhou Enlai commended Okazaki for his efforts, remarking that "In China we have a saying: when we drink water, we never forget who dug the well."

ANA kept alive Mr. Okazaki's spirit and through great effort has maintained and furthered friendly relations between our nations. Exchanges of people as well as commercial activities will further grow thanks to the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and Shanghai Expo in 2010; faster logistics will be promoted. I am certain that ANA's China routes will play an even bigger role.

In April 2007 Premier Wen Jiabao visited Japan, and the leaders of both countries confirmed the strategic importance of reciprocal relations. Also that year, the Haneda-Hongqiao shuttle service was inaugurated. I expect that ANA will adhere to the policy of "peaceful



coexistence, ages of friendship, reciprocal cooperation, and mutual development" through its collaborations with airlines and other companies in China, and continue contributing to the development of civil aviation in our country while further promoting Sino-Japanese relations. Best wishes for ANA's continued success as a wing of the Japan-China friendship.

Kong Xuanyou, Minister-Counselor,
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan