

HANEDA D-Runway Report (No.2) HISTORY OF THE AIRPORT

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Tokyo International Airport (HANEDA Airport)
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<http://www.pa.ktr.mlit.go.jp/haneda>

A HISTORY OF HANEDA AIRPORT

Tokyo international airport / HANEDA airport was opened at HANEDA in Tokyo on August 25, 1931, as a first civil aviation national airport in Japan.

At the time of the beginning of operation, the area of the airport was limited to 53ha (530,000 m²) and there was only a single runway of 150m length.

From 1938 to 1939, the first expansion was done, and its area was expanded from 53ha to 73ha, and the runway was extended from 150m of a single runway to cross runways of 800m x 80m each.

On September 21, 1945, after the world-war II, all the Japanese, around 1,200 families and 3,000 residents, who was living in the HANEDA airport-island, was expelled from there to outside within 48 hours by the US military. Then, HANEDA airport was occupied by the US until 1958 as the HANEDA Air Base.

Then, a huge scale development was conducted, and two full-scale runways were newly constructed just in two years, one was 2,100m x 45m named "A-runway", and another was 1,650m x 45m named "B-runway". As a result, this development of the airport made the "first form" of HANEDA airport afterwards.

In 1952, HANEDA airport was partially returned to the Government of Japan, and it was officially named as the "Tokyo International Airport", and in 1958, HANEDA airport was completely returned.

Then, in 1959, the total area of the airport was expanded to 260ha, and A-runway was extended to 2,550m x 45m, B-runway to 1,676m x 45m and a new terminal building was constructed.

In the 1960's, a jet plane was gradually introduced to the Japanese sky by rapid development of both an aircraft-body and a jet-engine.

In order to accommodate with these radical changes for jets, A-runway was extended to 3,000m x 45m in 1961, and a new runway of 3,150m x 60m named C-runway as a close parallel runway configuration was constructed in 1964. B-runway was also extended to 2,500m in 1971.

Thus, HANEDA airport was always, from the beginning, changing with the times.

(To be continued)

