

Executive Summary

CI122 Occurrence Investigation

On March 9th, 2019, China Airlines flight CI122, a Boeing B747-400 aircraft, registration number B-18211, departed from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Japan Naha International Airport for a schedule passenger flight at 1818 (UTC+8). There were a captain, a first officer, 18 cabin crewmembers, 361 passengers, a total of 381 persons on board. After the flight crew attempted to land the aircraft at Runway 18 of Naha International Airport and conducted two times missed-approach, the flight crew decided to fly back to Taoyuan International Airport. During the returning flight, the flight crew had declared emergency on low fuel condition to the Kobe Control Center and the Taipei Approach Control at 1954 and 2051 respectively. The aircraft safely landed at Runway 05 left of Taoyuan International Airport at 2101 with no further event.

According to the Transportation Occurrence Investigation Act of the Republic of China, and the content of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the Taiwan Transportation Safety Board (TTSB), an independent transportation occurrence investigation agency, was responsible for conducting the investigation. The organizations invited to participate in this investigation included: Civil Aeronautical Administration and China Airlines.

The ‘Draft Final Report’ of the occurrence investigation was completed in October 2019. In accordance with the procedures, it was reviewed at TTSB’s 9th Board Meeting on March 6th, 2020 and then sent to relevant organizations and authorities for comments. The Final Report was approved by TTSB’s 11th Board Meeting on May 1st, 2020 and published on June 3rd 2020.

Based upon the factual information gathered during the investigation and the results of analysis, three findings were obtained. There is no safety recommendation issued in this report.

Findings Related to Probable Causes

The occurrence aircraft landed at Taoyuan International Airport in low fuel

emergency condition was due to a combination of the unpredictable increasing taxi time during departure at Taoyuan International Airport, the flight crew conducted two times missed-approach during inbound to Naha International Airport, and the special air traffic control characteristic of Naha International Airport approach procedure.

Findings Related to Risk

Nil.

Other Findings

1. The flight crew of the occurrence flight hold the valid aviation personnel and medical certificates issued by the Civil Aviation Administration, the aviation qualification is incompliant with the requirements of the Civil Aviation Administration and the China Airline policy. There are no abnormal finding related to the occurrence in the training and check records of the flight crew. The 72-hour rest and activities before the occurrence were normal, and there is no evidence to indicate that the performance of the flight crew was influenced by medical, drug, and alcohol factors.
2. The weather conditions at the time of the occurrence were complied with the relevant restrictions on the landing of the aircraft. The weight and balance of the aircraft were within the limits.