

Kitakyushu Airport (北九州空港, Kitakyūshū-kūkō) (IATA: KKJ, ICAO: RJFR), sometimes called Kokuraminami Airport, is an airport in Kokuraminami-ku, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, Japan. It is built on an artificial island in the western Seto Inland Sea, 3 km (1.9 mi) away from the main body of the city. It opened on March 16, 2006, as New Kitakyushu Airport (新北九州空港, Shin-kitakyūshū-kūkō) but was renamed in 2008. It is designated a second class airport, and it has some international charter flights.

It is the fourth airport in Japan to begin operating 24 hours a day, after New Chitose Airport (Sapporo), Kansai International Airport (Osaka), and Chūbu Centrair International Airport (Nagoya).

Contents

1 History

1.1 Construction

1.2 Flights

1.3 Events

2 Dimensions

3 Airlines and destinations

3.1 Passenger

3.2 Cargo

4 Other facilities

5 Statistics

6 Access

6.1 Road

6.2 Bus

7 References

8 External links

History[edit]

The former Kitakyushu Airport had restrictions on aircraft operation due to its small size and location, close to mountains and residential areas. Heavy fog often resulted in flight cancellations. There were similar problems at the nearby Fukuoka Airport, which cannot engage in nighttime operations due to proximity to residential areas.

A new airport was intended to be free from such problems due to its offshore location, making possible 24-hour operation. Large cargo planes can use the airport, making possible convenient freight movement to and from nearby industrial zones. Toyota has a factory just across the bay from the airport.

Construction[edit]

A committee to promote the construction of the new airport was founded in 1978, with the governor of Fukuoka as chairman. Construction began in October 1994.

The new airport was anticipated by residents in and around the cities of Kitakyushu and Shimonoseki. The Kitakyushu municipal government organized bus tours to the construction site for interested citizens in an attempt to defuse controversy over the construction. The airport officially opened on March 16, 2006.

Flights[edit]

The first aircraft to land at the airport was a StarFlyer Airbus on March 26, 2006. The first

international flight from Shanghai landed on March 30, 2006. A Korean low-cost carrier, Jeju Air, flew eight charter flights from Kitakyushu to Incheon International Airport in summer 2008. Scheduled service on the route started in March 2009.

Events[edit]

Several events were held to commemorate the opening of the airport. A marathon was held on February 5, 2006 with half-marathon, 10 kilometre and five kilometre courses to celebrate the opening of the new airport.[citation needed] On June 4, 2006, a rugby game was played at Honjo Stadium between Japan and Tonga as part of the inaugural IRB Pacific 5 Nations series.[citation needed]

On August 2, 2006, the one-millionth user of the airport was presented with souvenirs. By July 11, 2007, 3 million passengers had used the airport.

Dimensions[edit]

The runway is 2,500 by 60 m (8,202 by 197 ft) (with a separate taxiway of 2,500 by 30 m (8,202 by 98 ft)), enough to accommodate Boeing 747s and other large jet aircraft. The manmade island on which the airport is built is 4,125 m (13,533 ft) long and 900 m (2,953 ft) wide (3.73 km² (1.44 sq mi)). Due to the island's size and the relative shallowness of the surrounding water, which is about 7 m (23 ft) in depth, future expansion is possible, 500 meter extension (to 3K) work to begin in 2021.

Airlines and destinations[edit]

Passenger[edit]

Airlines Destinations

China Eastern Airlines Dalian[2]

Fuji Dream Airlines Shizuoka

Japan Airlines Tokyo–Haneda

StarFlyer Naha, Taipei–Taoyuan, Tokyo–Haneda

Cargo[edit]

Airlines Destinations

ANA Cargo Naha

Korean Air Cargo Los Angeles, Seoul–Incheon[3]

Other facilities[edit]

The airline StarFlyer has its head office on the airport property.[4]

Statistics[edit]

See source Wikidata query and sources.

Access[edit]

Road[edit]

A 2.1 km toll-free bridge connects the island to the Higashikyūshū Expressway via the Kanda-Kitakyushukūkō interchange.

Bus[edit]

Terminal Via Note Operator

Sunatsu Kokura Station Bus Center Nishitetsu

Kitakyushu Science and Research Park Orio, Kurosaki

Kusami Station Runs on automated driving[5]

Hakata Station Tenjin only at midnight and early morning
Beppu Station ends 31 July 2019 Oita Kotsu, Kamenoi Bus