



*February 24, 2010*

## **IAM Signs Historic Agreement with Japanese Aviation Federation**

The IAM is the first North American transportation union to enter into an alliance agreement with the Japan Federation of Aviation Workers' Unions (KOHKUREN), the largest federation of air transport workers in Japan. Both the IAM and KOHKUREN represent workers at the same airlines, including Northwest/Delta, United, Continental and others.

“With the potential of a merger between United and Continental, Delta’s attempt to consolidate in Asia and the impact foreign carrier alliances have on domestic airlines, the IAM-KOHKUREN alliance provides the unprecedented opportunity to jointly protect wages and benefits of our combined membership,” said International President Tom Buffenbarger.

“Our two great organizations represent the best hope that air transport workers have for a better life in the face of severe challenges posed by the globalization of the aviation industry,” said IAM Transportation General Vice-President Robert Roach, Jr., who addressed KOHKUREN's National Convention in Tokyo. “The Alliance agreement we have signed sends a wake-up call to any international airline that still believes an ocean can separate our members. It serves as further testament to our continuing efforts to strengthen our coordination of organizing and collective bargaining activities with our brothers and sisters in Japan.”

## **AFL-CIO Unions Rally for TSO Workers**

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and the AFL-CIO are calling for an end to the Bush-era policy that has been used to prevent lawful collective bargaining rights for 40,000 Transportation Security Officers (TSO) who work for the Transportation Security Agency (TSA).

Hundreds of supporters from various labor unions took part in a February 23 rally in Washington, D.C. to show support for a beleaguered TSA workforce, who provide safety and security for more than 600 million people who fly each year, despite being denied the protection of basic collective bargaining rights for themselves.

In 2001, when the TSA was created, President Bush and congressional Republicans denied TSO’s union and other basic workplace rights declaring that “union rights would jeopardize national security.”

“It’s high time for the administration to correct one of the most offensive anti-union measures of the previous administration and instruct Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to grant TSOs their full workplace rights,” said Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., who took part in the rally.

Sign the AFGE petition to grant TSOs collective bargaining rights at [www.unionvoice.org/campaign/TSAPetition](http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/TSAPetition).