

PRESS RELEASE

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MH17

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AAPA Condemns Downing of MH17

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Commenting on the loss of MH17, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said:

"We join others in expressing our outrage at the shocking and violent manner in which flight MH17 was brought down, resulting in the senseless loss of 298 innocent lives. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew in enduring what is clearly a very distressing and traumatic experience.

Political differences need to be set aside. The priorities right now must be to allow the emergency services and official accident investigation team to carry out their work in accordance with established international protocols and that there is no further interference with the crash site. Further efforts are needed to ensure that the bodies of the victims are recovered for identification and returned to their next-of-kin in as respectful and dignified a way as possible. At the same time, family care and assistance is being provided by Malaysia Airlines with assistance from KLM.

Without prejudging the outcome of the investigation, there is already overwhelming evidence that the aircraft was brought down by an unprovoked attack. Responsibility for this outrageous act and resulting human tragedy lies squarely with those who carried out this heinous act. No effort should be spared in ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice.

Although the loss of MH17 remains a terrible tragedy, and is deeply unsettling, we need to maintain a proper sense of perspective. Comprehensive risk assessment is a collective responsibility based on relationships of trust and shared information. Flying is extraordinarily safe as a result of many years of close collaboration between governments and industry. Civilian aircraft, including MH17, operate in accordance with universally

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agreed global standards, using established international air routes. As industry we are fully committed to maintaining and further strengthening those partnerships, with the aim of ensuring that civil aviation continues to meet the needs of society for global connectivity, through safe, convenient and affordable air travel."

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Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA)

The AAPA is the trade association for scheduled international airlines based in the Asia-Pacific region. The AAPA permanent secretariat is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with international representation in Brussels and Washington, D.C. Collectively, the region's airlines carry 1,012 million passengers and 19 million tonnes of cargo, representing one-third of global passenger traffic and two-fifths of global air cargo traffic respectively, and thus play a critically important role in the ongoing development of global aviation.

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