

PRESS RELEASE

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AAPA CALLS FOR AVIATION SECURITY RETHINK

The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) has urged government security agencies to fundamentally review current practices on aviation security, and to work more closely together with aviation regulatory authorities, airports and airlines.

According to Mr Andrew Herdman, Director General of AAPA :

“Better harmonized measures need to be put in place quickly in order to restore public confidence that good security does not need to be associated with emotional distress and grave inconvenience. Failure to do so will only compound the damage we inflict upon ourselves as a society when we respond in knee-jerk fashion to new fears, or simply changing perceptions, of identified threats and security risks. Good security is all about good threat assessment and balanced risk management, not the elimination of every conceivable risk.”

Mr Herdman was commenting on recent developments after the actions taken by various governments to impose radically new and stringent security procedures on airline passengers. This led to chaotic scenes at London Heathrow and other airports, only made worse by the uncoordinated and inconsistent manner in which governments, airports and airlines around the world had to implement these measures without proper consultation.

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Mr Herdman further added :

“Far from providing passengers with improved security, the new measures have in many cases simply raised the level of public anxiety. This cannot form the basis of a secure and sustainable security regime going forward. Passengers are demanding greater clarity and consistency, as well as a restoration of common sense and practicality with regard to aviation security. AAPA member airlines recognize their responsibilities in ensuring the safety and security of our passengers. For their part, passengers are prepared to give their full cooperation to security measures, provided they are based on objective assessments of actual threats and risks, and do not subject the travelling public to unduly onerous restrictions and inconvenience. Air travellers should not be subjected to restrictions that would be considered ludicrous in the context of other modes of transport or daily activities. We are committed to working closely with the authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that air travel remains safe, secure and convenient.”

Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA)

The AAPA is the trade association of 17 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, AAPA member airlines carry 270 million passengers and 10 million tonnes of cargo representing approximately one-fifth of global passenger traffic and one-third of global air cargo traffic respectively, and thus play a critically important role in the ongoing development of global aviation.

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