



ASSOCIATION OF ASIA PACIFIC AIRLINES

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AAPA Voices Opposition to Proposed Korean Ticket Tax

The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) which represents 17 major international airlines based in the Asia Pacific region, has reacted strongly to the recent announcement by the Korean government of its plan to introduce a KRW 1,000 (Korean Won) tax on airfares for every passenger departing from Korea. AAPA Director General, Mr Andrew Herdman, said in a statement :

“This is another example of what seems to be a rash of unwelcome and misguided new taxes targeting air travel, too often aimed at funding politicians' pet projects or simply serving as international political gestures. It's easy to appear generous when spending other peoples' money, and not being held accountable for the end results. In this case, the costs of collection and administration of such new taxes, foisted on the industry, are likely to offset most if not all of the intended benefits.

The deeper absurdity of such initiatives, particularly those focusing on unspecified foreign aid projects, is that no industry does more than aviation to promote global development, making both rich and poor countries better off. Travel and tourism, and air transport in general, create millions of jobs worldwide. Over-taxing aviation is counter-productive to the wider goals of promoting economic and social development, and alleviating poverty.

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Given the clear public opposition to the introduction of such taxes, we sincerely hope that the Korean Government will seriously reconsider its position and drop this ill-conceived proposal.

There are far better ways to promote human development, in ways which are far more likely to receive broad and sustainable public support.”

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Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA)

The AAPA is a grouping of 17 scheduled international airlines based in the Asia-Pacific region. It is the trade association of the region's airlines, created to represent their interests and to provide a forum for all members to exchange information and views on matters of common concern. The AAPA permanent secretariat is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with international representation in Brussels and Washington, D.C. Collectively, AAPA member airlines carry approximately one-fifth of global passenger traffic and one-third of global cargo traffic, and thus play a critically important role in the ongoing development of global aviation. For more information about the AAPA, please visit www.aapairlines.org.

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