

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
AAPA Safety Symposium

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AAPA Symposium Strengthens Aviation Safety

More than 50 safety professionals, industry experts and representatives of airlines operating in the Asia Pacific region attended a one-day symposium in Kuala Lumpur on further enhancing aviation safety and efficiency. The safety symposium, held on 10 October 2006, and organized by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA), provided a unique opportunity for the participants to share their expertise and exchange views on safety management, training and the benefits of more harmonised regional regulations. The seminar also explored how investment in safety initiatives can be viewed as generating business benefits, not simply as a cost of compliance with safety regulations.

Most importantly, the symposium reaffirmed the industry's commitment to safety within the region.

In his introductory remarks, the Director General of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines, Mr Andrew Herdman, highlighted the airline industry's excellent safety record:

"Flying is increasingly recognised as the safest form of travel, and a valued part of everyday modern life. The safety record of AAPA member airlines exceeds industry standards and is fully comparable to the leading benchmarks set by other major operators based in Europe and North America, with a hull loss rate of one accident for every 2.8 million flights. However, there is always room for further improvement and we will continue to work closely with regulators and other industry partners to strengthen cooperation and implement even more robust industry-wide safety management systems.

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Mr Herdman also added that:

“The safety record of the industry depends on the performance of everyone involved, regardless of their base of operations or membership of industry associations. The AAPA supports the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap recently developed by the industry for ICAO and will look to support its regional implementation. We also recognise the benefits of industry safety initiatives such as the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) which is now established as an internationally recognised and accepted evaluation system for airline operations. The AAPA also advocates the concept of ‘*better states, better airlines*’ and is accordingly reaching out to all regulators and airlines in the region to work together 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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