

PRESS RELEASE

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December 2008 / Traffic / Preliminary

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AAPA Calendar Year 2008 and December 2008 Traffic Results ***Asia Pacific airlines braced for another difficult year ahead***

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) released today preliminary traffic figures for the full year 2008. AAPA member airlines carried 141.5 million international passengers in 2008, 1.8% fewer than the record levels achieved in 2007. Passenger traffic measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) terms was down by 1.0%. Capacity growth for the year was 1.7%, whilst the average passenger load factor fell two percentage points to 75.1%.

AAPA international air cargo traffic for 2008, expressed in freight tonne kilometres (FTKs), suffered a more significant decline, 6.1% lower than the record set in the previous year. Member airlines reduced cargo capacity accordingly, but the average cargo load factor for the year still fell by one percentage point to 65.6%.

Commenting on the 2008 results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "In what proved to be a particularly challenging year, airlines were battered by skyrocketing oil prices followed by rapidly weakening demand as the effects of the global economic downturn ricocheted around the world. AAPA passenger traffic held up reasonably well for the first nine months of the year, before growth tapered off. For the fourth quarter of 2008, AAPA international passenger numbers were 7% down on the previous year. The situation in the air cargo market was even more dire, as demand for air cargo collapsed in the second half of the year, registering increasingly steep monthly declines. December volumes were down by a shocking -24% compared to the same month a year ago."

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Mr. Herdman added, "With no sign of any respite amidst the global economic downturn, Asia Pacific airlines are braced for another extremely difficult year ahead."

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of AAPA Member Airlines

International	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	% Change	Jan-Dec 2008	Jan-Dec 2007	% Change
Passengers (000)	11,596	12,625	- 8.1 %	141,478	144,016	- 1.8 %
RPK (mn.)	49,190	52,851	- 6.9 %	594,731	600,510	- 1.0 %
ASK (mn.)	66,977	68,230	- 1.8 %	791,845	778,568	+ 1.7 %
Passenger Load Factor	73.4 %	77.5 %	- 4.1 pp	75.1 %	77.1 %	- 2.0 pp
FTK (mn.)	3,731	4,908	- 24.0 %	52,898	56,362	- 6.1 %
FATK (mn.)	6,263	7,202	- 13.0 %	80,600	84,783	- 4.9 %
Freight Load Factor	59.6 %	68.1 %	- 8.5 pp	65.6 %	66.5 %	- 0.9 pp

- RPK = revenue passenger kilometres
- ASK = available seat kilometres
- FTK = freight tonne kilometres
- FATK = available freight tonne kilometres
- All figures, including estimates for missing data, are provisional

Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA)

The AAPA is the trade association of major 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 17 AAPA member airlines carry 290 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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