

## PRESS RELEASE

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December 2009 / Traffic / Preliminary

**Association of Asia Pacific Airlines**

(Reg. No. 587)

9/F Kompleks Antarabangsa

Jalan Sultan Ismail

50250 Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia

Tel +603 2145 5600

Fax +603 2145 2500

[www.aapairlines.org](http://www.aapairlines.org)

### AAPA Full Year 2009 Traffic Results

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) today released preliminary traffic figures for the full 2009 calendar year. Overall, in 2009, AAPA member airlines carried 132.9 million international passengers, 5.7% fewer than in the previous year. Passenger traffic measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) fell by 6.5%, indicating particular weakness in demand on long-haul routes. Available seat capacity was reduced by 6.1%, resulting in a marginal drop in the average passenger load factor by 0.4 percentage points to 74.6%.

AAPA international air cargo traffic for 2009, expressed in freight tonne kilometres (FTKs), suffered an even more significant decline, down 11.0% for the year. Airlines made corresponding reductions in cargo capacity, resulting in an average cargo load factor of 66.1%, almost unchanged from the previous year.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "We have been through downturns before, but none as severe as we've experienced in the past two years. As a result of the global recession, demand for passenger travel and air cargo shipments both recorded sharp falls. The business impact on airlines was even more dramatic as the collapse in corporate travel and intense price competition in a shrinking market saw airline revenues falling by 20-25%. Airlines responded by cutting capacity and redoubling efforts to reduce costs throughout the business, but were unable to fully offset the effects of sharply lower revenues. Meanwhile oil prices, representing our single biggest cost, fell back from their 2008 peak but remained extremely volatile. Overall, Asia Pacific airlines are expected to report significant losses for 2009, following similar heavy losses suffered in 2008."

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Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman concluded, "On a more optimistic note, traffic trends in recent months have shown signs of recovery, in line with the improving global economic outlook led by developing economies in the Asia Pacific region. The cargo business is regaining some of its dynamism, and passenger demand on short haul leisure routes within the region has already picked up, although business travel demand is recovering more slowly. Asia Pacific airlines remain focused on conserving cash, rebuilding damaged balance sheets, and carefully managing capacity to match demand as they work towards restoring profitability. Whilst we remain hopeful about future prospects, the outlook for 2010 very much depends on the sustainability of what still appears to be a rather fragile global economic recovery."

### TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

#### International Scheduled Services of AAPA Member Airlines

International	Dec 2009	Dec 2008	% Change	Jan-Dec 2009	Jan-Dec 2008	% Change
Passengers (000)	12,121	11,170	+8.5%	132,931	140,897	-5.7%
RPK (mn.)	50,156	47,405	+5.8%	553,187	591,942	- 6.5%
ASK (mn.)	63,896	65,284	-2.1%	741,431	789,312	-6.1%
Passenger Load Factor	78.5%	72.6%	+5.9 pp	74.6%	75.0%	-0.4 pp
FTK (mn.)	4,359	3,502	+24.5%	46,776	52,561	-11.0%
FATK (mn.)	6,295	6,025	+4.5%	70,738	80,215	-11.8%
Freight Load Factor	69.2%	58.1%	+11.1 pp	66.1%	65.5%	+0.6pp

- 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

**ENDS**

#### 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 520 million passengers and 15 million tonnes of cargo, representing one-quarter 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.

For further information, please contact:

**Office of the Director General**

Tel +603 2145 5600 Fax +603 2145 2500

email: [odg@aapa.org.my](mailto:odg@aapa.org.my)