

## PRESS RELEASE

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January 2016 / Traffic / Preliminary

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### **Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results – January 2016**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of January released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed robust growth in international air passenger demand, whereas soft conditions persisted for air cargo markets.

In aggregate, 24.5 million international passengers were carried by the region's airlines in January, a strong 9.2% increase compared to the same month last year. The availability of affordable airfares, coupled with the rise in leisure travel ahead of the Lunar New Year festive period helped boost passenger demand, which rose by 9.9% in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) terms. Growth in demand continued to exceed capacity expansion, with load factors climbing 2.1 percentage points higher to reach 79.6% in January in spite of a relatively firm 7.1% expansion in available seat capacity.

On the other hand, weakness in global trade continued to hamper international air cargo markets for the region's carriers, as reflected in the 0.7% decline in demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) for the month. Freight load factors remained under pressure, with the average international freight load factor registering a 2.0 percentage point decline to 59.6%, after accounting for a 2.6% expansion in offered freight capacity.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "For the region's carriers, the continued strong growth in passenger demand was a very welcome start to the year, against a backdrop of volatile markets and an increase in global economic risks. The usual lift in air cargo shipments seen ahead of the holiday season had been somewhat muted, as seen in the continued weakness in air cargo volumes."

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Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman concluded, “Whilst the travel demand outlook remains broadly positive for the coming year, airlines remain vigilant in closely monitoring regional economic developments, and carefully managing costs given still highly competitive market conditions.”

### TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

#### *International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines*

<b>International</b>	<b>Jan-16</b>	<b>Jan-15</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Passengers (000)	24,548	22,472	+ 9.2%
RPK (mn.)	91,491	83,213	+ 9.9%
ASK (mn.)	114,912	107,330	+ 7.1%
Passenger Load Factor	79.6%	77.5%	+ 2.1 pp
FTK (mn.)	5,122	5,158	- 0.7%
FATK (mn.)	8,586	8,372	+ 2.6%
Freight Load Factor	59.6%	61.6%	- 2.0 pp

Effective September 2014, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 31 Asia Pacific based carriers: 5J, 6E, 9W, AI, AK, BI, BR, CA, CI, CX, CZ, GA, JL, JQ, KA, KC, KE, MH, MU, NH, NZ, OZ, PG, PR, SG, SQ, TG, TR, QF, VA and VN.

- Previous year data adjusted for comparison purposes
- 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 1,106 million passengers and 20 million tonnes of cargo, representing one-third 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.

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