

PRESS RELEASE

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Multi-Crew Pilot License Symposium

**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

AAPA Symposium Reviews New Pilot Training Schemes

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - More than 80 aviation regulators and industry experts involved in flight crew training in the Asia Pacific region attended a one and a half day symposium, and discussed the merits and challenges to implement Multi-Crew Pilot License (MPL) schemes.

The Asia Pacific MPL symposium, held on 9 - 10 May 2007, explored ways in which such new approaches to flight crew training could enhance flight safety standards, whilst also addressing the growing demand for more pilots from airlines in the region. It identified the need to move forward and gain experience by using "proof of concept" programmes, and to be transparent in the sharing of data.

The symposium explored how a performance and competency based MPL programme, supported with continual assessment, could raise safety standards. MPL trainers asserted that their programmes produce certified pilots who are better prepared to work effectively within the day-to-day operational environment of modern commercial airlines.

Insights were offered into recent developments with regard to policy drivers, regulatory actions and simulator training issues.

In his opening remarks, Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) Director Technical Affairs, Mr Martin Eran-Tasker, highlighted the projected growth in the Asia Pacific region and how it will place increased pressure on the supply of trained personnel to operate the region's fleets in a safe and efficient manner.

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Page 1 of 3

Mr Eran-Tasker added that the implementation of Multi-Crew Pilot Licence (MPL) schemes would enhance flight safety standards, whilst meeting the growth in demand for air travel in the region.

“Although there are established MPL guidelines instituted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, they can only be effective if MPL schemes are implemented in a consistent manner and regulators are prepared to consider “mutual acceptance” of each others programmes, thereby avoiding the problems of different licensing methodologies being used in the region. This symposium offers stakeholders the opportunity to provide recommendations to the region’s regulators and develop a regional roadmap on how to move ahead with MPL”, Mr Eran-Tasker continued.

In welcoming the conference delegates, Tengku Dato' Seri Azlan Ibni Sultan Abu Bakar, Malaysian Deputy Minister of Transport II stated: “The standard of aviation in Malaysia is very high, as we have always recognised the importance of maintaining the levels of safety and security standards, the two crucial components in civil aviation.”

Tengku Azlan added that: “In these two areas, Malaysia will look to play a greater leadership role and strengthen regional partnerships. We are committed to contributing to the betterment and advancement of civil aviation in the Asia Pacific region by supporting initiatives central to building knowledge and skills through training and development to meet the challenges of industry.”

Tengku Azlan further noted: “Harmonisation of licensing standards and methodologies is key to ensuring the highest training and safety standards are safeguarded.”

“Recognising the importance of establishing a syllabus which meets the requirements of regulators, operators and trainers, this forum will help stakeholders to develop a coordinated approach to chart out a roadmap for balancing MPL licensing methodologies.”

At the Symposium, industry experts were present from various organisations, including the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA), the International Air Transport

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Association, Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia, Department of Civil Aviation, Malaysia, Alteon Training and CAE, recognised leaders in responding to aviation training needs.

Organised by AAPA, the Asia Pacific Multi-Crew Pilot License Symposium was endorsed by the Department of Civil Aviation, Malaysia and jointly sponsored by industry partners CAE and Alteon Training.

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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 285 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.

For further information, please contact:

Mr Seelen Sakran

Manager – Corporate Communications

Tel +603 2145 5600 Fax +603 2145 2500

email: seelen@aapa.org.my