

PRESS RELEASE

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APASS 2010

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AVIATION SAFETY EXPERTS MEET IN MANILA

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Over 120 airline safety professionals are gathered in Manila, Philippines for the Asia Pacific Aviation Safety Seminar 2010 (APASS 2010), organised by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA). Topics to be addressed include: safety challenges with a particular focus on the Asia Pacific region; safety management systems (SMS); responding to regional safety threats; cabin safety; human factors; and safety tools. The seminar is hosted by Philippine Airlines with support from Airbus, MITRE Corporation, Lufthansa Technik Philippines, SAGEM (SAFRAN Group), Jeppesen, and Teledyne Controls.

Welcoming delegates to APASS 2010, AAPA Technical Director Mr. Martin Eran-Tasker said, “Regardless of market conditions, the industry never loses sight of safety - always our number one priority. Passengers can rest assured that air travel is both extremely safe and highly secure.”

Mr. Eran-Tasker further noted, “AAPA is committed to playing a critical role in ensuring that airlines in the region remain vigilant in maintaining the very highest safety standards. Safety is a shared responsibility and requires close cooperation between regulators, airlines and other stakeholders; the sharing of data and best practices; as well as effective consultation processes and communications. Effective safety management systems go beyond processes and programmes, and touch on the importance of strengthening the safety culture across the industry.”

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In his APASS 2010 keynote address, Mr. Jaime Bautista, President and COO of Philippine Airlines, emphasised that: “The promotion of safety is a shared responsibility, especially in an era where airlines are under tremendous pressure to cut costs in order to survive. Safety is our number one priority, and safety conscious operations are a key feature of the way Philippine Airlines does business. It is second nature to our staff, whether at the frontline or in the back office. We put a very high premium on safety compliance.”

Capt. Jim Sydiongco, Officer-in-charge of the Flight Standards & Inspectorate Service at the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) informed the meeting about efforts to strengthen regulatory oversight, and said that he was encouraged by ICAO’s acknowledgment that the Philippines was moving on the right track. He commented, “APASS 2010 presents an opportunity to further improve aviation safety awareness within the region. The sharing of lessons learned amongst the regional and local experts will be helpful in crafting more comprehensive regional safety aviation standards.”

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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.

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