

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AAPA Supports Global Action on Environment**

The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) has welcomed the outcome of the recent Triennial Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), with governments agreeing on a comprehensive series of measures to address the impact of aviation on the environment, including a new programme of action on international aviation and climate change.

Mr. Andrew Herdman, Director General of the AAPA, who was at the Assembly, commented that:

“Aviation accounts for just 2% of global CO2 emissions, but we are committed to doing everything we can, as an industry, to minimise our environmental impact. The fact that fuel accounts for 30% of total airline operating costs means that the industry already has every incentive to minimise fuel burn and thus emissions. Whilst demand for air travel is growing at around 5% per year, our carbon footprint is growing at only half that rate, thanks to investments in modern fuel-efficient engines and aircraft, and steady improvements in infrastructure and operational efficiency. As a result of such measures, we’re projecting a further 25% improvement in overall fuel efficiency by 2020. Longer term, we’re also looking towards the development of new biofuels suitable for use in jet engines, with some initial trials already underway.”

2 October 2007

Issue 2007: 19

Nevertheless, more needs to be done, leading to considerable discussion on the use of additional economic measures, including emissions trading. The ICAO Assembly recognised the potential benefits from the application of emissions trading, but decided that the inclusion of international aviation in such schemes should be subject to mutual agreement amongst the respective governments. However, the EU reserved its position and reiterated its intention to include international airlines within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, with or without the consent of non-EU governments.

Commenting on the controversy, Mr. Herdman said: “We need to work cooperatively towards common goals. Far from setting a good example, such unilateral action by the EU would inevitably lead to protracted international disputes, and is certainly not constructive. International climate change initiatives must address the aspirations of developing nations and principles of equity. This is the fundamental challenge we face in moving towards a broader post-Kyoto policy consensus.”

In conclusion, Mr. Herdman noted that: “Asia Pacific is home to two thirds of the world’s population, representing 26% of global GDP. Aviation is widely recognised as a key contributor to successful economic and social development, helping to raise living standards and alleviate poverty. Asia Pacific airlines take their environmental responsibilities very seriously, and we are committed to playing an active role in developing effective policies to address these important issues.”

**-ENDS-**

2 October 2007

Issue 2007: 19

## **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.

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