

PRESS RELEASE

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AAPA Remains Steadfast on Climate Change Commitments

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – The Director General of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA), Mr. Andrew Herdman, was a member of the aviation industry team at the annual United Nations climate talks held recently in Cancun, Mexico.

Commenting on the outcome of the meeting, Mr. Herdman said, “The Cancun Agreements will be seen as a mildly positive outcome from a UNFCCC process that was in danger of collapsing under its own weight, as thousands of government officials argue over fragments of text in search of an elusive, and some would say unattainable, goal of reaching a universal legally binding global deal on climate change. The real focus in Cancun was on rebuilding trust in the process, and an attempt to put the talks on a new footing, with all countries accepting some share of responsibility for meaningful action on climate change. The establishment of a Green Climate Fund to help developing countries to mitigate climate change impacts was also significant, but doubts remain as to how the pledge to raise US\$ 100 billion by 2020 will be met.”

With regard to air transport and its environmental impact, he noted that, “The global aviation industry, which accounts for 2% of man-made CO₂ emissions, is committed to achieving ambitious targets to improve fuel efficiency and cap its net emissions, whilst continuing to satisfy the projected growth in demand for air travel. Those efforts are now widely recognised, and entirely consistent with the recent resolution on aviation and climate change reached by governments at the 37th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in October 2010, as reported at COP16 in Cancun. ICAO is firmly established as the proper UN forum for addressing aviation's role and responsibilities regarding emissions.”

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Mr. Herdman expressed growing concern that individual governments were introducing unilateral measures to impose taxes or levies on air travel, which he said was damaging to the wider travel and tourism industry, with no real environmental benefit.

He concluded, "AAPA will continue to support industry efforts, working closely with other stakeholders including the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), to move the agenda forward, and urges governments to support the development of a global framework of measures working through ICAO."

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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 10 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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