

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Association of Asia Pacific Airlines**

(Reg.No. 587)

Level 27-1, Menara Prestige

1 Jalan Pinang

50450 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Tel +603 2162 1888

Fax +603 2162 6888

[www.aapairlines.org](http://www.aapairlines.org)

### Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results – August 2017

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of August released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed encouraging growth in international air passenger demand. Meanwhile, the solid expansion in international air cargo markets continued unabated. Growth in both markets was supported by high business confidence levels across the services and manufacturing sectors in major advanced and emerging economies.

The month saw the region's airlines record a 5.6% increase in the number of international air passengers carried to a combined total of 27.8 million, boosted by a combination of higher leisure travel demand during the holiday season as well as travel for business purposes. Reflecting on-going strength in long haul markets, demand in revenue passenger kilometre (RPK) terms increased by 7.1%. Available seat capacity expanded by 6.7%, resulting in a marginal 0.3 percentage point increase in the average international passenger load factor to 81.7% for the month.

Firm demand for manufactured products, particularly pharmaceutical goods and technological equipment, underpinned August's strong 12.2% increase in air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK). The growth in air cargo volumes significantly out-paced the 5.6% expansion in offered freight capacity, leading to a 3.8 percentage point rise in the average international freight load factor to 64.1% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "Asian airlines were encouraged by the continued expansion in both international air passenger and cargo markets, registering a 5.2% increase in the number of international air passengers carried to a combined total of 210 million for the first eight months of the year. During the same period, international air cargo markets saw a robust 10.6% increase in freight traffic carried by Asian airlines."

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Mr. Herdman added, "The sustained growth in air traffic demand has clearly been positive for the sector. Nevertheless, against the backdrop of a challenging operating environment marked by highly competitive air fares and rising costs, Asian carriers are continuing to work hard to improve profitability, with considerable variations in individual airline performance, both globally and within the region."

Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman continued, "Broad-based expansion in global economic output should help to sustain further growth in both air passenger and air cargo traffic demand in the upcoming months, and the longer term outlook remains broadly positive."

### TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

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

<b>International</b>	<b>Aug-17</b>	<b>Aug-16</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Jan-Aug 2017</b>	<b>Jan-Aug 2016</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Passengers (Thousand)	27,822	26,339	+ 5.6%	210,148	199,672	+ 5.2%
RPK (Million)	104,721	97,804	+ 7.1%	785,455	728,019	+ 7.9%
ASK (Million)	128,128	120,113	+ 6.7%	979,914	921,737	+ 6.3%
Passenger Load Factor	81.7%	81.4%	+ 0.3 pp	80.2%	79.0%	+ 1.2 pp
FTK (Million)	5,902	5,260	+ 12.2%	45,642	41,274	+ 10.6%
FATK (Million)	9,204	8,718	+ 5.6%	71,174	68,338	+ 4.1%
Freight Load Factor	64.1%	60.3%	+ 3.8 pp	64.1%	60.4%	+ 3.7 pp

Effective May 2017, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 32 Asia Pacific based carriers: 5J, 6E, 9W, AI, AK, BI, BR, CA, CI, CX, CZ, GA, HU, 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 1,341 million passengers and 21 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.

For further information, please contact:

Office of the Director General

Tel +603 2162 1888 Fax +603 2162 6888

Email: [odg@aapa.org.my](mailto:odg@aapa.org.my)

Website: [www.aapairlines.org](http://www.aapairlines.org)

Twitter: @aapairlines