ASSOCIATION OF ASIA PACIFIC AIRLINES
RESOLUTION NO. 8
Series of 2014

A RESOLUTION ON PASSENGER FACILITATION

The AAPA ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS, in its 58th meeting duly assembled,

RECOGNISING THAT:

I.   Air travel is an essential means of transport worldwide, with the global airline industry carrying over three billion passengers annually;

II.   Government agencies, including immigration, customs and health departments play a key role in all countries in facilitating the smooth flow of both passengers and cargo transported by air;

III.   The ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices in Annex 9 provide the framework to facilitate the clearance of aircraft, passengers and their baggage, cargo and mail, and to manage challenges in border controls and airport processes so as to maintain the efficiency of air transport operations;

IV.   The development of common standards for machine readable travel documents by ICAO has proved effective in the development of systems that expedite the movement of international passengers and crew members through clearance controls at airports while enhancing border security including immigration compliance programmes;

NOTING THAT:

V.   The mandatory provision of detailed information about passengers in the form of Advance Passenger Information (API) requirements, sometimes including additional information drawn from the Passenger Name Record (PNR), is now a common requirement of governments around the world;

VI.   New identity document technologies, including biometrics and other machine readable data, are now widely used by governments for identification purposes to help streamline passenger processing and enhance border security;

VII. Notwithstanding the large volumes of personal information of both crew and passengers transmitted to governments well ahead of travel, airline crews and air travellers still continue to be faced with lengthy border processing times at airports;

VIII. Several governments have introduced more onerous visa and quasi-visa requirements for inbound passengers, as well as the imposition of additional fees or taxes on inbound passengers;

BELIEVING THAT:

IX.   There is a need for continuing action by governments to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border clearance control formalities;

X.   Any government-mandated regulations or measures related to passenger processing must be designed from the outset to be practical, cost effective, efficient and sustainable;

RESOLVES:

XI.   TO CALL on government agencies to consult widely with the aviation industry in order to maintain a proper balance between national border control objectives and the need for efficient passenger facilitation;

XII. TO CALL on governments to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated towards both inbound and outbound crew and passenger processing at border controls, taking into account the growth in passenger numbers over time;

XIII. TO CALL on governments to continue to promote and expand preferred visa-waiver arrangements, thereby boosting the important contribution of travel and tourism to the wider economy;

XIV. TO CALL on governments to refrain from introducing or increasing visa-related fees, resulting in a higher cost of travel for inbound traffic and negatively impacting the travel and tourism industry and wider economy;

XV. TO CALL on governments to continue to work with other aviation stakeholders, including the airline industry, in order to improve passenger facilitation, thereby enhancing the overall travel experience.

APPROVED this 19th day of November 2014.

Certified correct: Attested by:

ANDREW HERDMAN   OSAMU SHINOBE
Director General   AAPA Chairman – 2014