

## PRESS RELEASE

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Air Asia QZ8501

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### **AAPA Statement on Air Asia Indonesia QZ8501**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Commenting on the loss of Air Asia Indonesia flight QZ8501, Mr. Andrew Herdman, Director General of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) said:

“We join others in expressing our profound sadness following the tragic loss of flight QZ8501 on 27 December in Indonesian airspace whilst enroute from Surabaya to Singapore. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew whose lives were lost as a result of this tragedy.

“Following confirmed sightings and collection of debris from the accident site, the emergency services will be focused on expanding their efforts to find and recover the bodies of the victims as well as floating debris, whilst seeking to locate the remainder of the stricken aircraft. Recovering the black box flight data and cockpit voice recorders will be critically important in helping the official accident investigation team to determine the sequence of events which led to the catastrophic loss of the aircraft. In accordance with established protocols, both the search and rescue and accident investigation is will be led by the Indonesian authorities, with additional international support from other foreign governments and industry experts.”

During the year 2014, the air transport industry suffered some extraordinary losses which attracted intense media coverage worldwide and severely tested the resilience of the industry. Nevertheless, there were actually fewer fatal accidents last year compared to past years. The overall safety performance of the industry was maintained at a high level, and flying remains the safest form of transport today. Looking back over the past five years, the industry has maintained continuous improvements in safety performance, resulting in a halving of the average major accident loss rate over the period.

Nevertheless, every accident results in immense human suffering, and the industry is committed to ensuring that lessons are learned and applied with the aim of delivering further improvements in industry safety performance. Responding to the extraordinary losses of MH370 and MH17 earlier this year, joint efforts by governments and industry, including ICAO's Conflict Zone Task Force and Aircraft Tracking Task Force, are actively seeking to identify gaps in current operational practices and prioritise additional safety initiatives to further enhance overall safety performance.

Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General reflected, "In our hearts we are deeply saddened by every loss of life. Although flying is the safest form of travel, and now part of everyday modern life, there is never any room for complacency. The four major accidents in 2014 serve as a reminder that safety is always the number one priority. As industry, we will learn lessons from these accidents and strive to ensure that such events will not recur again."

He concluded, "Aviation in the Asia Pacific region continues to expand rapidly and the quality of effective safety oversight needs to match this growth. AAPA's safety objective is to deliver further positive improvements in safety performance, recognising that this can only be achieved through the joint efforts of the region's operators, working in close partnership with regulators and other involved stakeholders. AAPA continues to be fully supportive of the latest ICAO safety objectives, including those addressing further enhancements to runway safety, approach and landing procedures, wildlife hazard management, and wider deployment of safety management systems."

**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 1,012 million passengers and 19 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.

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