

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

Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results – September 2018 *Encouraging air passenger demand and resilient air cargo markets*

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of September released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed sustained growth in both international air passenger demand and air cargo markets, amid continued moderation in the global manufacturing sector.

The region's airlines registered a 5.9% year-on-year increase in the number of international passengers carried to a combined total of 28.2 million for the month. Underscoring strength in both regional and long haul travel markets, demand as measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) recorded a 6.0% increase. The average international passenger load factor climbed 1.0 percentage points higher to 79.6% in September, following a 4.6% expansion in available seat capacity.

International air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) grew by 4.4% year-on-year in September, against a backdrop of easing expansion in global manufacturing production and new business orders. After accounting for a 6.5% increase in offered freight capacity, the average international freight load factor declined by 1.3 percentage points to 64.3% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "Thanks to strong business and leisure travel demand, Asian airlines have experienced impressive growth in passenger markets thus far this year, underpinned by the region's expanding economies and buoyant global services sectors."

"Overall, during the first nine months of the year, the region's airlines experienced a robust 7.7% increase in the number of international passengers carried to a combined total of 267 million. In the same period, international air cargo demand grew by 4.7%, benefitting from sustained growth in international trade. The third quarter saw a slightly more moderate 4.3% increase in air cargo demand, compared to the 4.8% growth recorded during the first half of the year."

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Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman said, "Global business confidence remains relatively firm, but may be undermined by uncertainty about emerging geopolitical risks and policy responses to escalating trade disputes. Nevertheless, Asian airlines expect continued growth in air travel demand in the coming months. Air cargo demand is also being supported by further growth in e-commerce. Overall, Asian airlines remain focused on adapting to changes in this always dynamic industry, seeking out additional growth opportunities whilst striving to maintain margins pressured by the impact of higher fuel prices."

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Sep-18	Sep-17	% Change	Jan-Sep 2018	Jan-Sep 2017	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	28,173	26,597	+ 5.9%	266,936	247,959	+ 7.7%
RPK (Million)	106,598	100,574	+ 6.0%	988,943	920,437	+ 7.4%
ASK (Million)	133,866	127,949	+ 4.6%	1,220,748	1,148,631	+ 6.3%
Passenger Load Factor	79.6%	78.6%	+ 1.0 pp	81.0%	80.1%	+ 0.9 pp
FTK (Million)	6,269	6,003	+ 4.4%	53,893	51,466	+ 4.7%
FATK (Million)	9,745	9,153	+ 6.5%	85,608	80,196	+ 6.7%
Freight Load Factor	64.3%	65.6%	- 1.3 pp	63.0%	64.2%	- 1.2 pp

Effective January 2018, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 36 Asia Pacific based carriers: 3K, 5J, 6E, 9C, 9W, AI, AK, BI, BR, CA, CI, CX, CZ, D7, GA, HO, HU, JL, JQ, KA, KC, KE, MH, MU, NH, NZ, OZ, PG, PR, QF, SG, SQ, TG, TR, 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

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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 1,486 million passengers and 22 million tonnes of cargo, representing over one-third of global passenger and air cargo traffic, and thus play a leading 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

Website: www.aapairlines.org

Twitter: @aapairlines