

PRESS RELEASE

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Aviation Safety Performance 2018

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

AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY SAFETY PERFORMANCE IN 2018

Safety requires focus, vigilance and cooperation by all stakeholders

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Commercial aviation has always placed the highest priority on the safety and security of the travelling public, and flying is now the safest mode of travel.

Worldwide, in the calendar year 2018, more than 4 billion passengers were carried safely on 38 million flights. There were 13 major accidents⁽¹⁾ involving commercial airline operations, which resulted in a total of 523 fatalities. This represented an overall loss rate of one major accident for every three million flights.

Looking more closely at the data, there were seven major accidents involving large western-built commercial airline jets, which resulted in a total of 304 fatalities, representing a loss rate for this category of operations of one major accident for every five million flights. Asia Pacific carriers experienced two major accidents involving large western-built commercial airline jets, which resulted in 190 fatalities. AAPA member airlines experienced zero major accidents during 2018.

Turning to turboprop aircraft operations, worldwide there were 5 major accidents in 2018 involving commercial airlines, which resulted in a total of 148 fatalities, including one accident involving an Asian operator which resulted in 51 fatalities. Turboprop operations play an important role in the development of new routes and connectivity to relatively inaccessible regions. Overall safety performance for turboprop operations has benefitted from collective efforts to address specific risk factors and operational challenges.

Mr. Andrew Herdman, Director General of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) commented, "Aviation safety is always our first priority and responsibility. With the demand for air travel growing continuously, the world's airlines are now responsible for safely transporting 12 million passengers a day, with a total of 4.5 billion passengers expected to take to the skies this year."

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8 January 2019
Issue 2019: 2



Mr. Herdman continued, “Flying is extraordinarily safe, and major accidents are rare events, but the industry experienced a number of fatal accidents in 2018 which reinforce the need to maintain and further enhance the highest safety management practices and standards.”

Commenting further Mr. Herdman stressed, “Attaining ICAO’s global aviation safety objectives requires active collaboration of regulators and industry, at all levels, to establish proactive safety management systems across the industry, identify evolving safety priorities and address common operational challenges.”

Mr. Herdman further stated, “The growth in demand for air travel brings added challenges. Governments and industry need to work closely together to tackle existing aviation infrastructure capacity constraints and congestion, whilst investing in the future to ensure that the air transport system is able to meet the expected growth in demand.”

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Herdman emphasized that, “Flying is extraordinarily safe, thanks to the collective efforts of all aviation stakeholders working together within a “Just Culture” framework built on mutual trust between regulators and industry. AAPA strongly supports measures to reinforce the effectiveness of safety oversight within the region and enhance aviation safety performance through regional and national safety teams.”

ENDS

[1] Safety performance data are based on global commercial aircraft major accidents but exclude intentional acts, military transports and non-commercial operations. Safety stakeholders all compile annual safety statistics which may vary slightly due to the specific criteria being used. However, all demonstrate a continuous improvement in aviation safety performance. Certification criteria used for aircraft inclusion: Western-built commercial jet aircraft with 30 seats or more, or with a MTOW of 20,000kg or greater, and commercial turboprops with 19 seats or more, or with a MTOW 15,000kg or greater.

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](https://twitter.com/aapairlines)