

## PRESS RELEASE

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January 2020 / Traffic / Preliminary

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### **Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - January 2020**

*Start of the year sees growth in passenger markets, soft cargo demand*

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Preliminary traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed that international air passenger markets remained busy in January 2020, with demand supported by travel ahead of the Lunar New Year celebrations, even as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in China began to spread. International air cargo volumes in January were soft, in part due to the closure of factories in Asia for the holiday season.

Overall, 33.8 million international passengers were carried by the region's airlines, representing a 2.7% increase compared to the same month last year. In revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) terms, demand grew by 3.3% whilst available seat capacity expanded by 4.2%, leading to a 0.7 percentage point fall in the average international passenger load factor to 81.7% for the month.

Meanwhile, international air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) fell by 4.0% year-on-year in January, whereas offered freight capacity grew by 2.7%. As a result, the average international freight load factor declined by 3.7 percentage points to 53.0% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "The year started on a positive note, with further growth in demand for air travel recorded in January."

"However, the renewed optimism was short-lived, as we are now in uncharted territory with the COVID-19 outbreak having had a very significant economic and social impact, leading to sharp falls in China-related traffic and wider effects on Asia Pacific travel and tourism markets, as well as severely disrupting global manufacturing supply chains."

Mr. Herdman added, "Airlines have responded to the sharp falls in demand by reducing the number of flights operated across route networks whilst striving to maintain international connectivity. The proliferation of uncoordinated travel advisories and border restrictions

**continued /-**

26 February 2020

Issue 2020: 4



imposed by governments, whilst well-intentioned, are inconsistent with WHO recommendations and International Health Regulations, and only serve to amplify public concern.”

“Overall, airlines continue to monitor developments closely, whilst taking appropriate measures to ensure the safety and well-being of passengers and staff members. From a business perspective, the impact of reduced demand is expected to lead to billions of dollars in lost revenue, mainly suffered by Chinese carriers and other Asia Pacific airlines. Airlines are therefore focusing closely on making associated cost reductions and conserving cash resources in order to survive the current downturn, whilst remaining ready to respond positively as and when the situation shows signs of improvement.”

### TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

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

<b>International</b>	<b>Jan-20</b>	<b>Jan-19</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Passengers (Thousand)	33,838	32,963	+ 2.7%
RPK (Million)	126,381	122,381	+ 3.3%
ASK (Million)	154,696	148,487	+ 4.2%
Passenger Load Factor	81.7%	82.4%	- 0.7 pp
FTK (Million)	5,478	5,705	- 4.0%
FATK (Million)	10,334	10,059	+ 2.7%
Freight Load Factor	53.0%	56.7%	- 3.7 pp

Effective January 2020, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 40 Asia Pacific based carriers: 3K, 5J, 6E, 7C, 9C, 9W, AI, AK, BI, BR, CA, CI, CK, CX, CZ, D7, GA, HO, HU, IX, JL, JQ, KA, KC, KE, KZ, 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 1,623 million passengers and 23 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.

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