

## PRESS RELEASE

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Assembly of Presidents / Virtual

**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

### **AAPA TO HOLD VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS**

*Travel restrictions prevent industry leaders from meeting in Japan*

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) announced today that the annual Assembly of Presidents which was scheduled to take place in Japan in November, will now be conducted virtually due to ongoing travel restrictions and blanket quarantine requirements in the region.

Commenting on the decision, Mr. Subhas Menon, Director General of AAPA said, “We had very much hoped that we could hold a physical meeting in Japan this year, but unfortunately circumstances do not allow for this to happen. Borders remain closed in Asia with onerous travel restrictions. Hence, together with our host Japan Airlines, we made the difficult decision to hold the Assembly of Presidents meeting virtually. We thank all stakeholders for their understanding.”

Mr. Menon added, “Prolonged border closures have wider repercussions far beyond the aviation industry, seriously affecting economic and social wellbeing. We sincerely hope Governments will come together soon to pave the way for the resumption of international air travel in a safe and secure manner. Only coordinated and harmonised travel policies and health measures would allow much needed business and social activity to resume.”

The AAPA Assembly of Presidents this year will be restricted to member airline delegates only. AAPA will hold a separate virtual media briefing for members of the media at the conclusion of the Assembly proceedings.

**END**

**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.

For further information, please contact:  
Office of the Director General  
Tel +603 2162 1888 Fax +603 2162 6888  
Email: [odg@aapa.org.my](mailto:odg@aapa.org.my)  
Website: [www.aapairlines.org](http://www.aapairlines.org)  
Twitter: @aapairlines