

AIRLINK

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Airport MD Speaks

Dato' Iskandar Mizal Mahmood returns to Malaysia Airports after almost 20 years with his wealth of experience gleaned from many multinationals and government linked companies to elevate and transform Malaysia Airports in the fast-changing aviation landscape with new travel norms and innovative technological advances.

This month, he celebrates both KL International Airport (KLIA) and Langkawi International Airport's recognition this year in The Voice of Customer initiative by Airports International Council (ACI) World for airports that have shown significant efforts to gather passenger feedback during the Covid-19 pandemic. On top of that, KLIA has emerged top in ACI's Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the fourth quarter of 2021 (4Q21). Optimistic of air travel picking up further this year, the airport operator welcomes news of more vaccinated travel lanes (VTLs) taking shape.

Dato' Iskandar Mizal Mahmood
Managing Director
Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad

It is a happy moment for us when two of our Group's network of Malaysian airports earned their recognition among over 200 airports in ACI World's latest The Voice of Customer, which is now in its second year running for having prioritised listening to our customers and passengers' evolving expectations during the pandemic.

To qualify for The Voice of Customer's recognition, our airports must have collected three or more quarters of data through ACI World's ASQ survey which benchmarks passengers' satisfaction for terminal safety, facilities, services and cleanliness. For the 4Q21, we achieved the full 5.0 score alongside nine other international airports in the 40 million passengers per annum category.

We believe KLIA's latest achievements will provide passengers with the added assurance of our continuous commitment to improve the airport experience despite the rigorous travel standard operating procedures implemented to curb the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are hopeful of the air travel industry's recovery in light of ongoing talks for the recommended reopening of our borders for quarantine-free travel. Coupled with our neighbours' efforts such as Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines to attract vaccinated tourists, this augurs well for intra-travel within the ASEAN region.

The recent fully-booked flights by our local carriers such as AirAsia and Malaysia Airlines for the Malaysia-Singapore VTL flights before the Chinese New Year holidays until mid-March speak volumes of the pent-up demand for travel to reunite with our loved ones or reconnect with our business associates. We welcome the restoration of ticket sales for both land and air VTL to full capacity effective February 16 based on the latest Covid-19 assessment and given the green light by the Health Ministry.

With the two countries in advanced talks to expand the VTL by air to Penang and Kota Kinabalu, we are also collaborating with the relevant parties, including the Transport

Ministry, to prepare the necessary Covid-19 screening facilities and other related facilities to not only ensure the success of these new initiatives but also the safety of our passengers.

We are also happy that Malaysia and Brunei have agreed in principle to implement an air and land VTL to encourage cross-border movements between them. Earlier talks of expanding the VTL to include Thailand and Indonesia, once they come into fruition, will mean more flight connectivity and frequencies at our airports.

We look forward to the introduction of more VTLs with other countries, which will benefit not only our airports but also the recovery of our nascent economy, which has been projected by the International Monetary Fund to grow at 5.75% this year. We will be working closely with the relevant authorities and parties to make it safe and seamless for our passengers.



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Clearer Skies in The Offing

Expectations are high for airlines to further improve their profits this year given with a number of them showing improved performance in passenger and cargo volumes for the fourth quarter of 2021 (4Q21).

According to International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Airline Business Confidence Index where it recently surveyed airlines' chief financial officers and heads of cargo, the results show that the pressure on airlines' profitability has diminished in 4Q21.

Conducted from December 2021 to January 2022, IATA's survey has a significant majority of the participants reporting improved airline profitability driven by the gradual recovery in passenger traffic as cross-border travel restrictions eased. Strong cargo demand and elevated cargo yields are the other contributing factors.

Despite the emergence of the Omicron variant late last year, IATA says 91% of the respondents expect the recovery in passenger numbers to improve in the coming months with further relaxation of travel restrictions and more efficient Covid-19 containment as the key drivers behind the air travel rebound.

Attesting to it, Malaysia Airports Managing Director Dato' Iskandar Mizal Mahmood remarks, "The last few months have seen passenger movements significantly picking up," adding that the lull situation created by the lockdown resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic had enabled it to implement many initiatives and prepare its network of airports to be ready to welcome travellers once international travel restrictions are lifted.

The airport operator's data for last December shows it having the highest passenger traffic of 5.35 million recorded for 2021 from its airports. Although its volume has dipped 11% to 4.7 million passenger movements in January this year, the airport operator maintains a positive outlook on the aviation industry.

The year 2021 saw the debut of SKS Airways' maiden flights to Pangkor and Redang on January 25 and 31 respectively in addition to four new routes launched by AirAsia the same month which enhanced connectivity between East Malaysia and West Malaysia.

Scoot Tigerair's (Scoot) launch of its twice weekly direct flights from Singapore to Miri, Sarawak on February 23, which was initially scheduled on January 19, followed next.

As international air travel recovers, Scoot's parent company, Singapore Airlines (SIA), also resumed its daily flight connecting Singapore and Denpasar, Bali on February 16 on its 337-seater Boeing 787-10 aircraft.

Singapore's Economic Development Board vice-president Lim Tse Yong is expecting international air travel in the republic to recover to 55% of pre-Covid-19 level this year and a full recovery by 2026.

IATA, which has newly released another set of data from its survey on the world's top 50 air travel markets that includes Malaysia, shows that as more governments relaxed border restrictions and lift restrictions, a growing momentum in air travel recovery through improved airline ticket sales could be seen.

IATA Director General Willie Walsh says, "Momentum toward normalising traffic is growing. Vaccinated travellers have the potential to travel much more extensively with fewer hassles than even a few weeks ago. This is giving growing numbers of them the confidence to buy tickets and that is good news!"

Walsh calls for further acceleration of the removal of travel restrictions, including quarantine and testing for those fully vaccinated with an approved vaccine by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Recognising the severe impact travel restrictions have on the lives of people and the economy, he feels that since they have not stopped the spread of the virus, "it is time for their removal as we learn to live and travel in a world that will have risks of Covid-19 for the foreseeable future".

Walsh adds, "This means putting a stop to the singling out of the traveling population for special measures. In nearly all cases, travellers do not bring any more risk to a market than is already there. Many governments have recognised this already and removed restrictions. Many more need to follow."

He laments that 13 of the top 50 travel markets surveyed by IATA still do not provide easy access to vaccinated travellers, including major economies such as China, Japan, Russia, Indonesia and Italy.

Besides calling for the removal of travel bans, IATA, which represents some 290 airlines comprising 83% of global air traffic, says it will continue to enable quarantine-free travel for non-vaccinated travellers with a negative pre-departure antigen test result among other things.



Cargo Momentum Continues

Where cargo is concerned, IATA remains optimistic about its demand in 2022 with nearly two-thirds (64%) of its survey respondents predicting further improvement in air cargo traffic while 29% expected no change from the already strong cargo positions, which have been fuelled by online shopping and other factors.

The survey says 58% of the respondents expect yields to remain elevated or to rise further with 71% of them reported growing volumes during the peak season last year (4Q21) due to the congested supply chains in the shipping industry and the recovery of belly-hold capacity with the resumption of passenger operations by airlines.

A case in point is the newly restructured AirAsia X's (AAX) latest landmark deal in securing full belly space utilisation for one-third of its wide-body Airbus A330-300 fleet initially for a year, which will be taken up by Teleport, the logistic arm of Capital A Berhad, formerly AirAsia Group Berhad, to meet customer requirements, both intra and across Asia Pacific.

Commenting on long haul carrier's air cargo expansion two months after its restructuring, AAX chief executive officer Benyamin Ismail says, "For the foreseeable future, cargo revenue will underpin our route strategy and passenger revenue for the first time will be ancillary."

AAX, which narrowed its net loss for the second quarter ended December 31, 2021, to RM11.94 million, earned RM119.4 million in revenue from cargo and charter operations, up 68% over the previous quarter.

It was operating with three aircraft. With more aircraft progressively brought back, AAX is looking at growing its cargo and charter revenue to enable the airline to have sufficient liquidity to meet its financial obligations.

Earlier on January 26, AAX had announced its partnership with French transport, logistics and supply chain GEODIS to increase cargo capacity in Asia Pacific and that it is in talks with major global clients with air cargo requirements.

Malaysia Aviation Group Launches MHFlySafe



Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) on January 24, 2022 reinforces its commitment to safety and hygiene with the launch of its MHFlySafe campaign and logo, following a successful detailed audit by the Bureau Veritas Certification Malaysia on the airlines under the Group including Malaysia Airlines, Firefly, MASwings and AeroDarat Services, the ground handling expertise within the Group.

The certification validates the Group's health and safety standards with globally recognised best practices and recommendations, and marks a timely occasion, especially as the Group works with stakeholders and partners across the value chain to facilitate a seamless and safe experience for leisure and business travellers with the gradual reopening of borders.

MAG have recently signed an agreement with Bureau Veritas, the world leader in testing, inspection and certification to deploy the "SAFEGUARD" Hygiene Excellence and Safety Label, designed to support the operational restart of tourism and business activities of their airlines and ground handling services.

“

We are delighted to have received certification for the "SAFEGUARD" Hygiene Excellence and Safety Label by Bureau Veritas, signifying that our efforts for safer and seamless travel meet international standards that are thoroughly assessed by an independent and globally recognised body. This is a testament of our commitment to putting safety and security at the core of what we do throughout our varying aviation business portfolios.

”

CAPTAIN IZHAM ISMAIL

Group Chief Executive Officer of Malaysia Aviation Group



"Our priority remains in ensuring the highest standards of safety and hygiene protocols to our passengers and employees to ensure that they are protected and enjoy a safe and comfortable environment at every step of the way. As the world is facing up against the fast-spreading Omicron variant we will continuously monitor and adjust our processes and policies according to the latest developments pertaining to health and safety SOPs from various authorities of respective countries that underpins our commitment under the MHFlySafe campaign.", the CEO added.

MHFlySafe is an overarching campaign of MAG's FlyConfidently campaign which was first introduced in July 2020 to raise public awareness of the health and safety measures taken by the Group. The effort was recognised by AirlineRatings, a worldwide airline safety and product rating review website, as Malaysia Airlines received a 7-star rating for its Covid-19 health and safety measures. Up to date, all operating Malaysia Airlines' pilots and cabin crew are fully vaccinated.

For more information, please visit www.malaysiaairlines.com

Collins Aerospace Expands MRO Capacity in China and Malaysia

Collins Aerospace announced on February 14, 2022 that it is investing more than USD27 million to nearly double the size of its MRO operations in Xiamen, China and quadruple the size of its MRO footprint in Selangor, Malaysia. This additional capacity will help bring faster turnaround times and more efficient service to Collins' customers in the region.

"The Asia Pacific region is a key market for Collins and these expansions represent our commitment to provide the best possible service to our regional customers," said Daven Tey, regional director, IATA III Aftermarket Operations for Collins Aerospace. "Our customers are eager for in-region support for their growth platforms, and we'll now be able to bring even more critical MRO services to their door. This growth will also pave the way for new product introductions and digital transformation to improve our future operations, while boosting on-time delivery."

In Selangor, Collins will invest more than USD16 million to relocate its MRO operations from their current 40,000 square-foot facility



to a new 160,000 square-foot facility at Subang Aerotech Park. The company's Malaysian operations were previously dedicated to supporting MRO for Collins environmental control systems, but as part of the expansion the facility will add new MRO capabilities for Collins air cycle machines, heat exchangers, engine starters, valves, propellers and actuation systems. The site will support a variety of aircraft, including the B787, B777X, A320, A380, ATR 42 and ATR 72.

Both sites will also work closely with Collins Innovation Hub in Singapore to explore new ways to utilise advanced technologies to enhance repair flows and quality.

Dassault Spotlights Expanding Falcon Model Line

Dassault Aviation exhibited its Falcon 8X long-range trijet and ultra-versatile Falcon 2000LXS at the Singapore Air Show, which opened on February 15, 2022.

The 6,450nm (11,945 km) Falcon 8X has been a leading seller in the Asia-Pacific region since the first aircraft was delivered in the region five years ago. The 4,000nm (7,410 km) Falcon 2000LXS has also proven popular with corporate customers in the Asia Pacific region, with more than 40 of the versatile twins currently in service in the region. The 2000LXS offers a short-field capability comparable to smaller midsize business jet models but with a range and comfort level far better than those aircraft.

Meanwhile, Dassault Aviation has been reinforcing the level of maintenance, repair and overhaul service available for the 100-plus Falcons now operating in the Asia Pacific region.

The company's wholly-owned ExecuJet MRO Services unit, acquired in 2019, is building a 144,000 sq. ft. facility in Kuala Lumpur that will more than double the capacity at that location. Equipped to handle line and heavy maintenance for the new Falcon 6X and Falcon 10X as well as current in-production and legacy Falcon models, this facility will open in the second half of 2023.



The Kuala Lumpur base recently performed its first C-check on a Falcon 2000LXS, joining ExecuJet MRO facilities in Perth, Sydney and Dubai that are already authorised to perform heavy maintenance on Falcon 2000 and Falcon 900 aircraft. In the second quarter of this year, ExecuJet MRO will open a 163,000 sq. ft. heavy maintenance base at Dubai World Central, adjacent to a recently opened line maintenance base.

Boeing Launches 777-8 Freighter to Serve Growing Demand for Cargo



Boeing launched the new 777-8 Freighter and expanded its market-leading 777X and freighter families of jetliners with an order for up to 50 aircraft from one of the world's largest cargo carriers, Qatar Airways.

Qatar Airways will be the 777-8 Freighter launch customer with a firm order for 34 jets and options for 16 more, a total purchase that would be worth more than \$20 billion at current list prices and the largest freighter commitment in Boeing history by value. The order also supports hundreds of U.S. suppliers from across 38 states, will sustain more than 35,000 U.S. jobs, and provide the American economy with an annual estimated economic impact of \$2.6 billion during the contract's delivery period.

Featuring advanced technology from the new 777X family and the proven performance of the market-leading 777 Freighter, the 777-8 Freighter will be the largest, longest-range and most capable twin-engine freighter in the industry. With payload capacity nearly identical to the 747-400 Freighter and a 25% improvement in fuel efficiency, emissions and operating costs, the 777-8 Freighter will enable a more sustainable and profitable business for operators.

At the White House, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Sheikh Mishaal bin Hamad Al Thani, Director of the White House National Economic Council Brian Deese, and Boeing President and CEO Dave Calhoun joined the formal signing by Boeing Commercial Airplanes President and CEO Stan Deal and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, who reaffirmed the airline's commitment to the 777X family with the record-breaking 777-8 Freighter deal. First delivery of the new freighter is anticipated in 2027.

“

Boeing has a long history of building market-leading freighter aircraft and Qatar Airways is honored to have the opportunity to be the launch customer for the 777-8 Freighter, an aircraft which will not only allow us to further enhance our product offering for our customers, but also help us meet our objectives to deliver a sustainable future for our business.

”

AKBAR AL BAKER

Group Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Airways

“Today marks a great day in the ever-building and strong relationship between Qatar Airways and Boeing. We certainly push Boeing hard to deliver upon our expectations, and the team at Boeing consistently strives to meet and exceed our expectations, giving the opportunity for us to be here to launch the most significant new freighter aircraft for a generation.”

Boeing Commercial Airplanes President and CEO Stan Deal added, “We are delighted to launch Boeing's next great cargo airplane – the 777-8 Freighter – with Qatar Airways, one of the world's largest cargo carriers and our partner since the airline began operations nearly 30 years ago. Our team is ready to create an airplane that will serve them well for many decades. Qatar Airways' selection of the efficient 777-8 Freighter is a testament to our commitment to provide freighters with market-leading capacity, reliability and efficiency.”

“We are proud that 90% of the global dedicated freighter fleet is made up of Boeing airplanes. With global supply chains under pressure and high demand for e-commerce, the performance and capabilities of the fleet is more important than ever.”

For more information, please visit www.qatarairways.com

Singapore Airlines Extends PPS Club and KrisFlyer Elite Statuses

Singapore Airlines (SIA) is extending PPS Club and KrisFlyer Elite statuses, rolling over Elite miles, pausing the expiration of miles in 2022, and introducing new programme benefits that further rewards its loyal members in January 2022.

All PPS Club and KrisFlyer Elite statuses that are due to expire between March 2022 and February 2023 will be automatically extended for another year. This supports SIA's members, who have been unable to fly as before due to the Covid-19 pandemic and follows a similar extension in 2020 and 2021.

Elite miles earned by KrisFlyer Elite members, in the 12 months prior to the latest extension, will be credited back into their accounts after the extension. Elite miles earned during the previous membership qualification cycle will also count towards their requalification in the March 2023 to February 2024 cycle.

KrisFlyer miles that expire in 2022 will be automatically extended by six months at a time, at the end of each month.

Rewards earned from the PPS Rewards and KrisFlyer Milestone Rewards 3 that are due to expire in 2022 will be extended to 31 December 2022. This offers members greater flexibility in utilising the rewards earned from flying with SIA.

From February 2022, KrisFlyer members also enjoy additional benefits when they fly on Scoot.



PPS Club and KrisFlyer Elite tier members can enjoy priority boarding, complimentary standard seat selection, an additional 5kg check-in baggage allowance with any baggage purchase, as well as 25% more KrisFlyer miles for every mile earned when travelling on Scoot flights.

SIA has also launched two new KrisFlyer Milestone Rewards, which can be enjoyed by members who have earned 1,000 and 2,500 Elite miles.

“

We are very grateful to our PPS Club and KrisFlyer members for their continued loyalty. Extending the membership statuses, as well as continual enhancement of the KrisFlyer programme, provides our members with more recognition and programme benefits. It also offers further opportunities to earn and redeem their miles with both Singapore Airlines and Scoot. KrisFlyer will continue to find ways to bolster its position as a leading lifestyle-centric rewards programme, offering a myriad of ground and in-flight benefits for all members.

”

JOANN TAN

*Senior Vice President Marketing Planning of
Singapore Airlines*

For more information, please visit www.singaporeairlines.com



Emirates Restore Flights to Five African Countries



Emirates resume passenger operations between Dubai and five African countries starting from January 29, offering customers more choice, superior value and enhanced connectivity to and through Dubai.

The significant restoration of services include Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Dar El Salaam, Tanzania; Nairobi, Kenya; Harare, Zimbabwe; Emirates' three South African gateways Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Customers flying in and out of Emirates' African gateways can safely connect to Dubai and to an array of onward connections to Europe, Middle East, the Americas, West Asia and Australasia.

All passengers travelling from Emirates' African network with Dubai as their final destination require a 48-hour PCR test. Passengers must present a valid negative

Covid-19 PCR test certificate with a QR code for a test conducted at an approved facility, and validity must be calculated from the time the sample was collected. Upon arrival in Dubai, passengers will undergo an additional Covid-19 PCR test and remain in self quarantine until the results of the test are received.

Since it safely resumed tourism activity in July 2020, Dubai remains one of the world's most popular holiday destinations, especially during the winter season. The city is open for international business and leisure visitors. From sun-soaked beaches and heritage activities to world class hospitality and leisure facilities, Dubai offers a variety of world-class experiences. It was one of the world's first cities to obtain a Safe Travels stamp from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) – which endorses Dubai's comprehensive and

effective measures to ensure guest health and safety.

Dubai is currently hosting the world for Expo 2020, until March 2022. Through the theme of *Connecting Minds, Creating the Future*, Expo 2020 Dubai aims to inspire people by showcasing the best examples of collaboration, innovation and cooperation from around the world. Its programme is packed with experiences to suit all ages and interests, including a rich line-up of themed weeks, entertainment, and edutainment. Art and culture fans as well as food and technology enthusiasts can explore exhibits, workshops, performances, live shows and more.

For more information, please visit www.emirates.com

Air France Extends Ready to Fly Service

Air France launched the “Ready To Fly” service in July 2021, a free and optional service providing customers confirmation that they have the required health documents for their trip before arriving at the airport. This service provides customers greater peace of mind and a more seamless travel experience, by avoiding multiple checks on the day of departure.

Ready To Fly, which has proved popular with customers, is being progressively deployed throughout the Air France network. It is currently available on more than 140 routes on departure from 80 airports, representing more than 600 daily flights including, all domestic flights in France and to/from Corsica and French Overseas Department; flights to/from the United States, Argentina, Chile and Brazil; flights from France to Germany, Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Gabon and Senegal; flights to France on departure from Europe and Canada.

Since its launch, Ready To Fly has been used by over 600,000 customers.

Since January 24, 2022, the vaccine pass has been mandatory on domestic flights in France for passengers aged 16 and over (excluding flights to/from Corsica and the French overseas departments). To reduce the time required to process the submitted documents, Air France is replacing the manual verification of the vaccine pass with an automated check, ensuring customers travelling in France receive instant confirmation.

This feature is available a few days before departure, in the same way as with any other Ready To Fly document verification process – customers receive an email from Air France inviting them to upload their vaccine pass on a secure online platform.

Customers who have not used the pre-validation service can alternatively scan the QR code of their vaccine pass during check-in at a self-service kiosk at the airport on the day of departure. This service is currently available at Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Paris-Orly, Bordeaux, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Mulhouse, Nantes, Nice, Strasbourg and Toulouse. This feature will be integrated in the online check-in process in the coming months.

The pre-travel validation of the vaccine pass will limit the number of manual checks required at the boarding gate and improve flight punctuality.

For more information, please visit www.airfrance.com





Turkish Airlines to Use Sustainable Aviation Fuel

Focusing on protecting the richness of nature for the future generations in Turkey and 128 countries in its flight network, Turkish Airlines has started to use sustainable aviation fuel on its flights.

Aviation fuel obtained from sustainable sources was used for the first time on TK1823 flight that departed from Istanbul Airport for Paris Charles De Gaulle Airport on February 2, 2022. While sustainable fuel will be used for one day a week on the chosen route, there are plans in place to use it on different routes on a wider scale.

Aware of the effect the aviation sector has on climate change and developing projects to decrease that effect, flag carrier airport took a significant step towards reducing the carbon footprint of its guests with the sustainable aviation fuel. Sustainable aviation fuel that will be used for Turkish Airlines has 87 percent less greenhouse gas compared to fossil fuels.

“ We are the airline that flies to more countries than any other in the world. This also means we are the airline that introduces its guests to the richest biodiversity as well. We conduct our work towards achieving sustainability with that mentality and responsibility. Our first flight that uses sustainable resources is a part of that vision. We believe that future generations will continue to be able to discover the world and its preserved beauty with Turkish Airlines. Our efforts focused on protecting our world will continue. ”

*Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat
Chairman of the Board and Executive
Committee of Turkish Airlines*

The fueling process is also facilitated by Turkish Airlines subsidiary Turkish Fuel Services (TFS). Sourced from Neste company, the environmentally friendly product is stored in TFS fuel farm, and gets loaded to aircraft after it gets blended with jet fuel. Next goal of the airline goes further than using sustainable fuel for its flights. The global brand is conducting “Microalgae Based

Sustainable BioJet Fuel Project (MICRO-JET)” with Bogaziçi University with the support of The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK). When the project is complete, the first carbon negative integrated bio refinery of Turkey and Europe will start its service.

This sustainable fuel with high energy helps to decrease harmful particles of SOx and NOx emissions due to clean burn. Produced from sustainable raw materials and without any harmful heavy metals, this fuel will be used once a week as a start in Istanbul - Stockholm flights.

Turkish Airlines’ growing passion over the years has earned them the title of the airline that flies to most countries in the world. Today, the airline conduct flights to 120 countries from its new home, Istanbul Airport, with a young fleet of 371 aircraft by proudly carrying the Turkish flag across the globe.

For more information, please visit www.turkishairlines.com

Aeroflot Takes Delivery of Two Boeing 777s with Retrofitted Cabin

Aeroflot took delivery of two long-range Boeing 777 aircraft with retrofitted cabin and due to improved configuration, the aircraft can accommodate 427 passengers while providing superior flight experience for passengers travelling in all classes of service. The retrofitted Boeing 777 airliners are configured with 28 Super Diamond NG seats in Business class, 24 seats in Comfort class and 375 seats in Economy class.

Business class passengers can enjoy individual suites providing a high level of privacy. The class service includes sliding doors and an extra armrest that turn the seat to a private suite, fitted with an 18.5-inch HD monitor and 2-metre full-flat bed.

Passengers travelling in all classes of service can enjoy the latest generation Panasonic Ex3 multimedia in-flight entertainment system. In January 2022, Aeroflot enhanced their in-flight entertainment concept with at least 60 Russian and international film premieres and 40 new movie releases with an IMDb rating of 6 and above are uploaded to the IFE monthly. Passengers can choose from over 5000 items of video, audio, entertainment and game content. High-speed Internet access (up to 30 Mb/sec) is also available on board.



The Boeing 777s with retrofitted cabin currently operate on routes to Vladivostok and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. In future, the aircraft will be utilised for flights to the most popular international and domestic destinations.

Aeroflot's fleet is one of the youngest of any airline worldwide. As of late January 2022, Aeroflot operated 186 aircraft, including 22 Boeing 777-300ER long-haul aircraft.

For more information, please visit www.aeroflot.ru

Finnair Unveils New Premium Economy Class

Finnair has unveiled its brand-new Premium Economy product which will offer an appealing new travel option for its long-haul customers. The new travel class – alongside a unique new Business Class and a refreshed Economy Class – makes its debut this spring.

Finnair's stylish and spacious Premium Economy cabin will offer a comfortable seating choice that provides approximately 50% more space than Economy Class. The new cabin class is situated in its own intimate and dedicated cabin with a maximum of just 26 passengers per aircraft.

Ole Orvär, Finnair Chief Commercial Officer, said: "The trend for premium travel has significantly accelerated during the pandemic, so we are confident our new Premium Economy travel class will prove very popular with customers looking for an upgraded experience from Economy."

Finnair has also invested in a refresh of its long-haul Economy Class, to provide customers with a more restful ambiance for their long-haul flight. New lighter seats for Finnair's A330 aircraft and three new A350 aircraft will offer enhanced ergonomics, personal stowage options, USB A & C connectivity and a larger inflight entertainment (IFE) screen with an updated user interface.

The makeover of Finnair's A350 aircraft in service currently will see their Economy cabins receive new seat covers and an updated IFE user experience to bring them in line with the designs of the new Business and Premium Economy cabins.

In summer 2022, Finnair plans to serve nearly 100 destinations in Europe, Asia and the US including new long-haul routes to Busan, in South Korea, Tokyo Haneda in Japan as well as Dallas and Seattle in the US.

For more information, please visit www.finnair.com



“ Aviation Interview with Dato’ Rohman Ahmad Director of SKS Airways

Armed with a background in Civil Engineering from the University of Technology Malaysia, Dato’ Rohman Ahmad, 39, had started his career in construction management with the Johor-based SKS Group, a multi-disciplinary organisation before he was tasked to lead its new venture into aviation, which resulted in the inception of SKS Airways Sdn Bhd on November 13, 2017. With his previous experience largely in construction and property, he quickly learnt and picked up the ropes of the airline business. Surrounded by a team of professionals and external consultants, his responsibilities are to ensure that the airline’s first year of operation is set up to meet its targeted goals and to prepare its roadmap for the next three years.

Amidst the rising Covid-19 cases, Omicron threat and soaring jet fuel prices, how have they impacted SKS Airways’ recent commencement of its flight operations to the islands of Pangkor and Redang?

Fully aware of Omicron’s impact on the aviation and tourism industries, safety has always been our top priority. We are committed to strictly follow all guidelines laid out by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to ensure minimal risks to our passengers and crew. Although the Covid-19 cases are trending high currently, we believe that with Malaysia’s high vaccination rate of its 32 million plus population, we will be able to minimise the impact with the help of the booster dose in reducing the virus’ transmission.

SKS Airways is capitalising on the pent-up demand for domestic travel while assisting in the local rebound of the travel industry. The pilot tourism bubble project in Langkawi is proof of that pent-up demand by travellers.

Undeniably, it has been tough for the past two years and will continue to remain challenging for the aviation and tourism players. Nevertheless, we foresee the situation will slowly improve and share Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ir Dr Wee Ka Siong’s optimism during the launch of our Subang-Pangkor maiden flight on January 25 that passenger volume at our local airports will grow this year beyond the 11 million passenger movements recorded last year.

 **SKSAIRWAYS**

A MEMBER OF SKS GROUP | MALAYSIA | AUSTRALIA



Please tell us how your airline's three-tier fare system - SKS PROMO, SKS LITE and SKS PLUS - work?

Our SKS PROMO fares offer the most affordable rates but there are only limited seats available on each flight for such fares. Hence, passengers are advised to pre-plan their journey in advance if they are keen to secure such promotional fares. However, they will not be allowed to change their flight schedule using such fares. Nor will there be a refund if they cancel their flight.

On the other hand, the SKS Plus fares are not only more flexible but they also offer access to the Subang SkyLounge prior to the passengers' departure. Generally, our fares increase as more seats are sold. Since the seats are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, always plan your journey early to avoid disappointment. Our fares can be viewed on our online booking system at www.sksairways.com.

What is the weight limit imposed on the hand luggage and checked luggage respectively for passengers on your 19-seater turboprop DHC6-300 Twin Otter aircraft. Any charges for exceeding the weight limits?

We allow free-of-charge up to three kg for cabin baggage and up to a maximum of seven kg for checked baggage. Owing to limitations in the size of the aircraft cabin and the luggage compartment on our Twin Otter aircraft, we are unable to accept checked baggage exceeding seven kg. We thus advise passengers to carefully pre-plan packing of their personal effects and travelling gears.

While we do not accept or charge for excess baggage during check-in, we would like to remind them that holiday related items such as golf sets, snorkelling and/or diving equipment are available for rent at their respective destinations.

Regarding the returning passengers' purchases such as chocolates from the duty-free island

of Pangkor, what are your airline policies like?

As for chocolates and other forms of packaged food, it should be fine as long as it is within the baggage limit. We do not allow any fresh produce onboard though.

With SKS Airways working towards its Subang-Tioman and Johor Bahru-Tioman new routes by the second quarter of 2022, are these two services expected to start simultaneously in May? What kind of ticket pricing can passengers expect and who are your target markets?

Based on our current planning, they will commence at the same time. SKS Airways' target markets are the information technology savvy Gen-Y and Gen-Z, young families and island lovers looking for unique experiences at our country's popular island destinations. We will announce the ticket pricing in due time, which should be around the same range as the ticket fares to Pulau Pangkor and Pulau Redang, which start from RM160 one way.

Will you be working out any packages for these two routes to synergise with the hotels owned by the SKS Group in various parts of Johor?

We have plans to offer packages with flight tickets and accommodation but are not limiting ourselves by just partnering with SKS Group-owned hotels. For now, our focus is the flight ticket for leisure travel via our Twin-Otter aircraft to the three popular island destinations that we have identified.

How do you see the prospects for 2022? Any difficulties in sourcing for pilots, crew and/or staff?

We are optimistic the business environment will improve this year and have started by leveraging on the domestic travel demand to give us a head start when international travel resumes. By starting small, this will give us the added edge, agility and flexibility to make swift

decisions according to market conditions. With the Covid-19 pandemic having more than levelled the playing field, there are now more affordable aircraft and ample pilots in the marketplace, plus less congested landing slots for us to work with.

What are SKS Airways' plans beyond 2022?

For our scheduled commercial passenger services, we plan to cover other new and unserved destinations. Based on the travel demand feedback received thus far, we may increase the daily frequency of our current routes to Pangkor and Redang from Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, Selangor.

Regarding our plans to diversify into cargo and charter, we recognise cargo as one of the key pillars in our aviation business. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), airlines generated a historic high of US\$128 billion in cargo revenue in 2020. IATA also forecast 2021's air cargo revenues to hit a record \$175 billion. We expect to be profitable once SKS Airways' three pillars are up and running within the next five years.

Work apart, how do you unwind?

I believe in spending time with my family and would go on short family trips with them to interesting places, trying out different local cuisines besides exploring our country's abundant natural attractions and culture. Travelling takes us out of our comfort zone. A change of scenery inspires us to see, taste and to try new things.

I hope the containment of the Covid-19 situation globally will improve in 2022. I am sure I am not the only one who misses travelling freely without the current constraints that are being imposed.



KICK OFF

UNWIND

LIVE IT UP

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