

AIRLINK

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Capacity Rebuilding, the Way Forward for Airlines

With global travel recovery very much in place now that it has pivoted from 2019 to 2024, the focus of the aviation industry should shift towards rebuilding the seat capacity of airlines, according to Mayur (Mac) Patel, Head of Asia of OAG, a leading data company on global travel.

In his presentation on Asia Pacific (APAC) Aviation Outlook 2024: Edging Ever Closer to 2019, Mayur said that based on OAG's data collated since January 2020, the global domestic and international capacity is now above pre-pandemic levels.

The travel industry, being very resilient, has bounced back very strongly from COVID-19, he spoke at the Mini Forum on Aviation and Tourism: The Intrinsic Link organised by APG Network which was attended by 150 international delegates and guests in Kuala Lumpur recently.



On the international seat capacity for Asia, which is divided into four regions, Mayur said the numbers for Central Asia were quite robust, thanks to the capacity that was deployed in a very short time. Thus, its percentage increase was more significant.

For Southeast Asia (SEA) and Northeast Asia (NEA), which are very reliant on the key source market out of China, their international seat capacity has been pulled back until the Chinese tourists fully return, he added.

South Asia or the Indian sub-continent, on the other hand, has come back very strongly in terms of international seat capacity as its dynamics and market segmentation are very different and based on the business, leisure and diaspora traffic.

Regarding SEA's domestic seat capacity, Mayur said some of low-cost carriers (LCCs) have not put all their fleets back into their network. AirAsia Malaysia,

which has a number of aircraft monthballed in Kuala Lumpur (KUL), is looking at recovery by the end of 2024.

On the capacity rebuilding at Asia's megahubs, which has numerous connectivity points such as Bangkok (BKK), Hong Kong (HKG), KUL, Seoul (ICN) and Singapore (SIN), he said their share of capacity as of the week commencing May 6, 2024 is in the 80% to 90% range.

Airport pairs are rebuilding and continuing to grow, with the number of airport pairs operated in NEA doubling from 6,773 in 2011 to 13,457 in 2023 while the airport pairs in SEA rose from 2,499 in 2011 to 3,924 in 2023 despite the different modes of travel in the region.

Air travel is Malaysia's number two mode of transport after land, contributing 36.7% or 7.395 million of the preliminary tourist arrivals of 20.14 million in 2023 while in Singapore and Thailand, it is the primary mode of transport at 79.1% and 84.5% respectively.

Mayur added that the number of airport pairs operated by LCCs in SEA has increased from 24% since 2011 to 44% in 2023, further highlighting the value of aviation to economic development as well as connecting communities and travellers at large.

Over this period, Mayur said APAC carriers continue to develop dual-brand strategies in terms of market development with full-service airlines creating a low-cost subsidiary, citing some successful case studies such as Singapore Airlines/Scoot, Cathay Pacific/HK Express and Qantas/Jetstar.

"We expect a significant increase in arrivals to regional destinations such as Bali in Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, Japan and Malaysia's hotspots like Penang, Langkawi and Sabah over the next 12 months."

City pairs have changed in the last five years, with competition intensity increasing among city pairs with five or more carriers at Asia's megahubs.

ICN, for instance, has 21 city pairs representing 55% of its total capacity while SIN has 12 city pairs representing 41% of its capacity and HK with nine city pairs representing 43% of its capacity.

According to OAG, daily seat capacity at the airports in SEA rose by 10% in April 2024 across the region, with the biggest increases percentage-wise witnessed by Indonesia's Makassar (29%) followed by KUL, which rose by 15% to 2.95 million seats compared to March 2024.

Additionally, international capacity in SEA increased the most in KUL in April 2024 with 127,800 seats added compared to the previous month.

The KUL to SIN sector also moved up one spot to become the fourth busiest route with 445,220 seats a day among the global top 10 international busiest routes.

Mayur said eight of these top 10 international routes were from APAC, with the HKG to Taipei (TPE) route leading while nine of the top 10 domestic routes globally also came from APAC. SEA's top three international routes remained between SIN and its three other regional hubs, namely KUL, Jakarta (CGK) and BKK.

Overall, SEA's airline capacity in April 2024 totalled 38.3 million seats, with domestic capacity accounting for 59% of all seats and the remaining balance taken up by international capacity.

In addition, the region's total seat capacity in April was higher at 12% compared with April 2023.

Tourism Malaysia's Strategic Action Plans to Increase Malaysia's Air Connectivity

To drive greater accessibility and seat capacity to Malaysia as it gears towards Visit Malaysia 2026, Shahrin Mokhtar, Tourism Malaysia Director of Strategic Planning recently shared four of its action plans via its collaborations with airlines at APG Network's recent Mini Forum.

Besides providing matching grant to airlines to promote charter flights and new international routes to the country, the second action plan is to work with airlines to fill up the seats and convert transit passengers into tourists.

To help narrow the gap created between Malaysia's air arrival figures and its 24 million seat capacity, Tourism Malaysia has been collaborating with airlines using the pricing strategy or special deals to fill up the seats.

"We also promote stopover programmes as we want to convert transit passengers coming through our airports to become tourists in Malaysia," citing the Kangaroo route from Australia and New Zealand to the United Kingdom and Europe as an example.

Another example is the Indian tourists on transit in Kuala Lumpur who are travelling with local carriers such as Malaysia Airlines to Bali in Indonesia or Australia.

With Malaysia and Singapore expecting total seat capacity of 4.7 million and six million respectively from Greater China in 2024, he said the third action plan involves collaborating with airlines flying to Singapore, in particular Singapore Airlines and its sister low-cost carrier (LCC), Scoot, to help Malaysia meet its target of five million Chinese arrivals this year.

According to ForwardKeys, a data analytics company, 23,860 Chinese tourists flew to Malaysia on full-fledged flights via Singapore last year.

Shahrin observed that the figure would be higher if flights from the LCCs were included, noting that 350,064 Chinese tourists entered Malaysia by land via Singapore in 2023 while the pre-pandemic figure was around 800,000 Chinese arrivals.

Given the Middle Eastern carriers' better connections in Europe, Shahrin said via its fourth action plan, Tourism Malaysia has smart partnerships with them to capture the European market and the United States.

"In 2023, 122,558 Europeans flew with Middle Eastern carriers to Malaysia. The majority flew with Emirates (33%), Qatar Airways (26%), Etihad (15%), Saudia (12%) and Turkish Airlines (11.4%)."



Award-Winning IndiGo Boosts Connectivity Via Codeshare Partnerships

India's largest low-cost carrier IndiGo (6E) has been recognised for being the driving force behind the country's aviation growth with its impressive expansion and for providing air travel opportunities to many first-timers.

“It is a testimony to the 100 million customers choosing to fly with us in 2023 and the unwavering commitment, professionalism and dedication of all my 35,000 colleagues.

PIETER ELBERS
Chief Executive Officer
of IndiGo (6E)

The fast-growing 6E's philosophy is simply to offer affordable fares, on-time flights and provide courteous and hassle-free travel experience across its network of 88 domestic destinations and 32 international destinations. With a fleet of more than 350 aircraft, the airline operates around 2,000 daily flights.

“This award is a testimony to our purpose of giving wings to the nation by connecting India to the world and the world to India,” said Elders.

He added that 6E and Malaysia Airlines (MH) recently signed a memorandum of understanding for a codeshare partnership and mutual cooperation agreement.

The agreement will enable both airlines to provide customers with more options and flexibility for seamless travel between Malaysia and India.

Datuk Captain Izham Ismail, Group Managing Director of Malaysia Aviation Group said with India being its largest international market, 6E will further widen MH's reach beyond the nine hubs it operates within India.

Meanwhile, IndiGo has also established 11 new connections under its extended codeshare agreement with Australia's national carrier, Qantas Airways, effective March 31, 2024.

For more information, call **+603-2145 8533** or visit **www.goIndiGo.in**



Air New Zealand's Joint-Venture Alliance with Singapore Airlines Extended

The partnership between Air New Zealand (NZ) and Singapore Airlines (SQ) has been extended for another five years until March 2029, allowing both parties to continue offering their customers more value, greater options and access to a wide global network.

Following the extension, the two joint-venture partners will operate a total of four daily seasonal services between Auckland and Singapore from 27 October, 2024 to 29 March, 2025.

With the fourth daily seasonal service between the two cities, NZ and SIA will jointly operate 38 return services weekly during peak months, which translates to more than 893,000 seats yearly.

Mike Williams, NZ Chief Transformation and Alliances Officer said since the joint-venture alliance was launched at the start of 2015, the two flag carriers have together carried over 4.6 million passengers, adding that the alliance gives New Zealanders access to SIA's network in Europe, India and Southeast Asia.

NZ, which earlier reported net profit after taxation of NZ\$129 million on higher passenger revenue of NZ\$3.1 billion for the first half of its 2024 financial year, attributed it to a significant ramp-up in capacity across the airline's international network.

With the deterioration of a number of continuing economic and operational conditions, its second half

performance is expected to be markedly lower than the first half.

The airline cited the impact of additional competition on forward revenue performance as well as ongoing weakness in domestic corporate and government demand. Other contributing factors include the temporary cost headwinds of NZ\$35 million in the second half to alleviate customer impacts and operational pressures besides ongoing cost inflation.

“While the global aviation ecosystem remains under immense pressure, we are committed to providing the best experience possible to our loyal customers while we navigate these issues.

Doing the basics brilliantly without ever compromising on safety has positioned the airline well to compete. An additional 400,000 people have joined our loyalty programme over the past year, lifting membership to 4.4 million

GREG FORAN
Chief Executive Officer
of Air New Zealand (NZ)

For more information, visit **www.airnewzealand.co.nz**



Turkish Airlines Closes with Higher 83.4 Million Passengers for 2023

Despite ongoing geopolitical tensions and macroeconomic uncertainties, Turkish Airlines (TK) achieved a new milestone in 2023, carrying 83.4 million passengers by leveraging its agility, extensive flight network and highly qualified workforce maintained throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both its domestic and international capacity rose by 23.5% and 16% to 30 million and 53 million passengers respectively compared to 2022. TK set itself apart from the industry by exceeding its 2019 international capacity by 27%.

Standing atop in Europe, the airline has an average daily flight of 1,443 for 2023, up 8% from 2019. Driven by the strength of its passenger segment, TK's revenue last year rose to US\$20.9 billion from US\$18.40 billion in 2022.

Additionally, Turkish Cargo increased its freight ton kilometers by 16% last year compared to 2019. According to IATA's 2023 data, it is ranked fourth among the world's top air cargo carriers having tripled its market share in the air freight market over the past decade.

Türkiye's national flag carrier recently added Melbourne as its first destination in Australia to its ever-expanding network of 346 destinations served by a modern fleet of 450 aircraft.

"Australia, with its breathtaking landscapes and warm-hearted people, now becomes the 130th country to join our expansive network, signifying our presence across six continents."

PROFESSOR DR AHMET BOLAT

Chairman of the Board and Executive Committee of Turkish Airlines (TK)



The inauguration of TK's thrice-weekly Istanbul to Melbourne route via Singapore is a testament to the airline's growing influence in Asia Pacific besides underscoring its commitment to foster connections between diverse cultures and communities across the globe, he added.

Melbourne Airport Chief Executive Officer Lorie Argus said, "Melbourne is home to the largest Turkish population in Australia, so we expect these flights will prove particularly popular with people looking to visit friends and relatives.

"We have worked closely with the Victorian State Government to bring TK to Melbourne and now look forward to see them growing their services over the coming years.

For more information, call **+603-2053 1899** or visit **www.turkishairlines.com**



Two Next-Generation Real-Time Weather Apps for British Airways' Operational Efficiency

British Airways (BA) will become the first United Kingdom airline to roll out two next-generation weather applications (apps) ahead of the busy summer season to replace the manually produced weather reports generated earlier in the day.

The apps will provide pilots and the airline's flight planning teams access to real-time weather data from The Weather Company, allowing them to assess the impact of weather on their intended flight routes and make more operationally efficient decisions.

The first app will offer comprehensive insights into weather conditions along flight paths both before departure and while in the air. Additional updates will use BA's onboard WiFi connectivity to support real time in-flight weather data.

Currently, WiFi is available on all the airline's Gatwick fleet while more than 80% of its Heathrow fleet will only be rolling out to 100% by the end of 2025.

BA's Integrated Operations Control centre, meanwhile, will also have access to an app in the future that will work in conjunction with the new technology available to pilots, giving them precise information on weather changes for better planning.

The Guidor app used by pilots is provided by SkyConseil while the WSI Fusion app is used by flight planning teams. The apps are part of BA's £7 billion transformation programme to focus on increasing the use of new technology across its operations.



"These applications represent a step-change in the quality of weather information we receive."

RENÉ DE GROOT
Chief Executive Officer of British Airways (BA)

In future, they will enable pilots to collaborate in real-time during a flight with operational colleagues on the ground, thus allowing faster decision-making for issues such as diversion planning and recovery, he added.

For more information, visit **www.ba.com**

Over the next 12 months, Qatar Airways (QR) will be increasing its flight frequencies to 15 international destinations, including Kuala Lumpur (KUL).

Starting in winter 2024, Qatar's national carrier will grow its flight frequency to Berlin, Germany from 14 weekly flights to 18. As a testament of its commitment to serving key destinations in Europe, it will be inaugurating its flight to Hamburg city on July 1, 2024.

With Hamburg's addition to the German market, QR will now serve five destinations in Germany with a total of 71 weekly flights, including the increased frequency to Berlin, via its award-winning hub, Hamad International Airport, in Doha (DOH).

Acclaimed as the Best Airline in the Middle East which flies to over 170 destinations, QR will also be increasing its seven weekly flights to 14 from DOH to KUL this summer.

Other destinations that will see their flight frequencies raised in summer include Barcelona from 14 weekly flights to 21 while Boston, Brussels, Miami and Tunis will each see increases from seven weekly flights to 10.

With Batik Air's (OD) launch of its thrice-weekly B737-800 flights to Guilin (KWL) on June 2, 2024 from Kuala Lumpur (KUL), the airline will be offering direct point-to-point connections to seven key gateways in China.

Providing passengers with more options for travel to other exciting destinations in China, OD currently operates 23 weekly frequencies from KUL to Chengdu, Guangzhou, Haikou, Kunming, Zhangjiajie and Zhengzhou.

OD Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Chandran Rama Muthy said, "Guilin offers a unique travel experience with its stunning scenery and cultural attractions. We are confident our passengers will enjoy exploring this beautiful destination."

"Our route expansion to China aligns with our strategic response to support the implementation of the 30-day visa-free travel policy for Chinese tourists visiting Malaysia. This is in line with Tourism Malaysia's 2024 target of attracting between five and seven million Chinese tourists."



Qatar Airways to Increase Flight Frequencies and Launch New Hamburg Route

The oneworld Alliance member will be increasing Nice's frequencies from four weekly flights to seven in May ahead of the Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix and Cannes Film Festival.

Copenhagen's flights will also be increased from four a week to seven while Manchester and Rome each will witness increases from 18 weekly flights to 21.

Meanwhile, Oslo will be increased from seven weekly flights to 14, Seoul from seven weekly flights to eight, Warsaw from 10 weekly flights to 14 and Paris from 21 weekly flights to 28.

QR Group Chief Executive Officer, Engineer Badr Mohammed Al-Meer said, "The multiple flight increases in our existing destination network emphasise the surge in demand for air travel, bridging together countries and people for better tourism and trade opportunities."

For more information, visit www.qatarairways.com



Batik Air to Add Guilin As Its Seventh Destination in China

Nestled along the banks of the Li River, Guilin is renowned for its picturesque iconic limestone mountains, crystal-clear rivers and lakes, making it a photographer's paradise and a haven for nature enthusiasts.

Visitors can explore the ancient town of Daxu, marvel at the magnificent Elephant Trunk Hill or explore the enchanting Reed Flute Cave adorned with stunning illuminated rock formations. Guilin also offers hiking trails, cycling routes and rock climbing for those seeking outdoor adventures.

To commemorate this route, OD has all-inclusive one-way fares for economy and business class seats. Passengers can also take advantage of a selection of pre-purchased meals and additional baggage allowance at discounted rates.

For more information, visit www.batikair.com



Premium Economy Class Inflight Dining Enhancements at Singapore Airlines

Singapore Airlines (SQ) has revamped its Premium Economy Class inflight experience to include improved and expanded selection of food and beverage (F&B) options as well as a new amenity kit.

“Since its introduction in 2015, Premium Economy Class has become popular with our customers. They appreciate the added amenities, heightened comfort, and the extra personal space it offers, all at an excellent value.”

YEOH PHEE TEIK

Senior Vice President of Customer Experience of Singapore Airlines (SQ)

SQ's Premium Economy Class is available on 74 aircraft or just over half of its passenger fleet totalling 143 aircraft. These are the 32 Airbus A350-900LHs, seven Airbus A350-900ULRs, 12 Airbus A380s and 23 Boeing 777-300ERs.

The Premium Economy Class is available in 31 destinations in SQ's network, including Singapore or around 41% of its passenger network comprising 76 destinations.

To enhance its inflight dining experience, SQ has developed over 200 new appetisers, main courses and desserts as part of its expanded Premium Economy Class inflight meals. Two premium main course options, international or Asian cuisine, are available on every flight.

Customers may also choose from an expanded Book the Cook menu featuring up to 20 dishes on rotation which they can pre-order at least 24 hours before departure. They can preview the inflight food and beverage offerings up to eight days before to their flight via SQ's digital inflight menu.

Their selected meals are served in elegant custom-made stoneware glazed porcelain serviceware placed on a full-sized linen-lined tray. Its Premium Economy Class customers are offered a glass of Charles de Cazanove Brut Tradition NV champagne shortly after take-off.

On flights of at least seven hours long, SQ has collaborated with Out of the Woods, a manufacturer of sustainable lifestyle products in the United States, for the new amenity kit designed exclusively for its Premium Economy Class customers.



Its amenity pouch is made from eco-friendly Forest Stewardship Council-certified kraft paper fabric while the kit's lip balm is packaged in biodegradable material

For more information, visit www.singaporeair.com.



AirAsia X's Resumption of More Chinese Routes Boosts the Group's Market Dominance

AirAsia X (D7), which resumed its thrice-weekly Kuala Lumpur (KUL) and Xi'an (XIY) service on April 5, 2024, represents its fifth direct route to China and the sole airline connecting Shaanxi Province's capital of China to Malaysia's capital city.

Following its recent reinstatement, almost all the flights on this route enjoyed more than 80% passenger load factor with the airline expecting to achieve 10,000 seat sales in the coming months.

Since its first launch in 2014, D7 has flown more than a million guests on this popular route.

Deputy General Manager of China West Airport Group, Tang Tao said, "As one of the top airline brands, AirAsia plays a pivotal role as a key partner of West Airport Group and Xi'an Xianyang International Airport."

Solidifying further D7's expansion in China, the airline will be resuming its four-weekly service between Hunan Province's capital and largest city, Changsha (CSX) and KUL starting July 5, 2024.

As one of China's first national and historically cultural cities, which boasts the world-famous UNESCO World Heritage Site, Wu Ling Yuan (Zhangjiajie), where the Hollywood blockbuster Avatar was filmed, CSX has earned numerous accolades.

They include being known as China Top Tourist City

besides being designated the World Capital of Media Arts and Culture City of East Asia.

As D7's sixth direct route to China, CSX complements AirAsia Malaysia's extensive network of 12 destinations within Greater China, namely Guangzhou, Kunming, Guilin, Nanning, Quanzhou, Shantou, Shenzhen, Wuhan, Taipei, Kaohsiung, Macao, and Hong Kong.

"China continues to be among our fastest growing markets where we have historically maintained a robust presence as the largest low-cost foreign carrier in the region. In 2019, we carried over 140,000 guests to and from Changsha."

"We remain committed to expanding our network that not only maintains AirAsia Group's market dominance as the largest foreign best value carrier by capacity but also enables D7 to remain committed in our quest to stimulate and make air travel affordable for everyone."

BENYAMIN ISMAIL

Chief Executive Officer
of AirAsia X (D7)

For more information, visit www.airasia.com



New MAB Academy and Flight Simulator Building for Malaysia Aviation Group

Recognising the commitment to advancing aviation excellence and shaping the future of the industry through its training arm, the Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) has launched its new MAB Academy campus having moved from its previous location in Kelana Jaya to Malaysia Airlines' former headquarters in Sepang, Selangor mid-December last year.

Spanning 194,000 sq ft, its new campus includes a heritage walkway showcasing MAG's historic journey, an i-Learn hub and cabin mock-ups for in-flight services training.

As an approved training organisation certified by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia, MAB Academy offers nearly 200 training courses ranging from mandatory flight training to aviation services training and programmes on digital innovation.

It caters to clients that include top Malaysian corporations, international airlines and students from universities globally.

"By fostering a culture of continuous learning and development, we aim to ensure our agility in meeting the evolving demands of the aviation landscape."

TAN SRI WAN ZULKIFLEE WAN ARIFFIN

Chairman
of Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG)

Scheduled for completion in mid-2025, its new, world-class simulation centre will feature six simulator bays equipped with advanced aircraft simulators operated by MAG airlines. They include a brand-new A330neo simulator and simulators for its Boeing 737-800 NG and ATR 72-500 aircraft.

A pool for safety and emergency training facility as well as other hospitality service training will also be available at MAB Academy's state-of-the-art flight simulator building's whose ground breaking ceremony was recently officiated by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim.



Also present were Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook, Group Managing Director of MAG, Datuk Captain Izham Ismail, alongside official government dignitaries, board members and the senior management of MAG.

For more information, visit malaysiaaviationgroup.com.my



ASEAN Tourism Standards Awards to Strengthen Region's Competitiveness

In Malaysia, the ASEAN Tourism Standards, which comes under the auspices Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC), 107 awards and certificates have been presented to those who have met its minimum standards at both national and regional levels although 116 applications were received.

Established on January 26, 2018, these standards aim to make the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) a world-class destination in accordance with the ASEAN Strategic Tourism Plan 2016-2025, which is committed to responsible, sustainable, inclusive and balanced tourism development besides contributing significantly to the socio-economic well-being of the people living in the region.

At the 27th meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers this year, the ASEAN members were reminded to promote the ASEAN Tourism Standards in their respective countries to increase the region's competitiveness.

The January 25, 2024 meeting noted that based on the preliminary figures obtained for 2023, ASEAN saw a significant 153.09% year-on-year increase in international arrivals.

Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing urged the tourism industry operators to comply with the ASEAN Tourism Standards to raise the service quality and promote a good tourism image for Malaysia.



This is especially so as the country is hosting the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2025 in Johor from January 19 to 25 under the theme, Unity in Motion: Shaping ASEAN's Tourism Tomorrow and in lieu of its preparations for Visit Malaysia Year 2026.

Tiong said the country welcomed 5.8 million foreign tourists for the first quarter of 2024, marking a growth of 32.5% compared to the previous year's 4.3 million, citing the 30-day visa exemption for tourists from China and India as part of the visa liberalisation plan announced by the government last year as part of the contributing factors.

“

The top 10 tourist-generating markets were Singapore, Indonesia, China, Thailand, Brunei, India, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Australia and the Philippines.

We will continue to collaborate with Malaysia Airports, the Ministry of Transport Malaysia and local international airlines to increase flight frequencies, new route developments and seat capacity, especially from key markets such as West Asia, China, India and South Korea.

Matching grants for charter flights will also be provided to encourage more direct flights into Malaysia. At the same time, we are working with various countries to have more direct flight to East Malaysia.

”

DATO SRI TIONG KING SING

Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture

ASEAN Tourism Standards Awards

Out of the 107 ASEAN Tourism Standards Awards, 20 of them earned the ASEAN level recognition at the ATF 2024 held in Vientiane, Laos under five categories.



They are the ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard, ASEAN Green Hotel Standard, ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Standard (Gastronomy) as well as the ASEAN MICE Venue Standard under Meeting Room and Exhibition Venue respectively.

Under the ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard (2024-2026) at ASEAN level, the Penang City Council clinched it for the fourth consecutive time. The other two recipients were the Melaka City Council and Putrajaya.

In the ASEAN Green Hotel Standard category at ASEAN level, apart from Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur (MOKL), the Shangri-La chain of hotels in Sabah and Penang swept four of the remaining awards.

In the ASEAN MICE Venue Award (Meeting Room) at ASEAN level, Shangri-La Rasa Ria Kota Kinabalu also picked up another accolade while at the national level, the Shangri-La group of hotels won four awards. They include Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur, Shangri-La Tanjung Aru and Shangri-La Golden Sands.

Other local hotels that made it to ASEAN MICE Venue Standard under Meeting Room at ASEAN level were G Hotel Gurney in Penang, Sunway Resort Hotel (SRH) and Wyndham Acmar Klang, both in Selangor.

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre walked away with the ASEAN MICE Venue Standard Awards for both Meeting Room and Exhibition Venue at the regional level.



Other recipients of the ASEAN MICE Venue Standard (Exhibition Venue) at ASEAN level were Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK), Setia City Convention Centre (SCCC) in Shah Alam, Selangor, Setia Spice Convention Centre in Bayan Lepas, Penang and Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC).

BCKK, SCCC and SICC also won an award under this category at the national level with 47 other recipients that include Connexion Conference & Event Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi International Convention Centre, Movenpick Hotel & Convention Centre KLIA and Putrajaya International Convention Centre.

The meeting rooms of other hotels and resorts that also received national level recognition include Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur, Lexis Port Dickson in Negeri Sembilan, MOKL, SRH, The Ruma Hotel and Residences, The Magellan Sutera Resort, Sabah, Pullman Miri Waterfront and Riverside Majestic Hotel Puteri Wing in Kuching, Sarawak to name a few.

For the ASEAN MICE Venue Award (Exhibition Venue) at national level, only Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre made it to the 2023-2025 list.

Under the ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Standard (Gastronomy) at national level, which was divided into urban and rural categories, a total of 15 awards were given.

Among the five under the urban category are Sabah Tea, Koisaan Cultural Village, also from Sabah, The Farmshop, a restaurant in Labuan, another restaurant Pak Malau in Langkawi and Kuching South City Council (MBKS), which also received an award under the ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard at the national level.

At the ASEAN level for the ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Standard (Gastronomy), the sole award winner for the urban category went to Mari Chiak Restaurant of Baba House Melaka while Homestay Desa Murni in Temerloh, Pahang clinched the rural category.

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