MALAYSIA AIRPORTS

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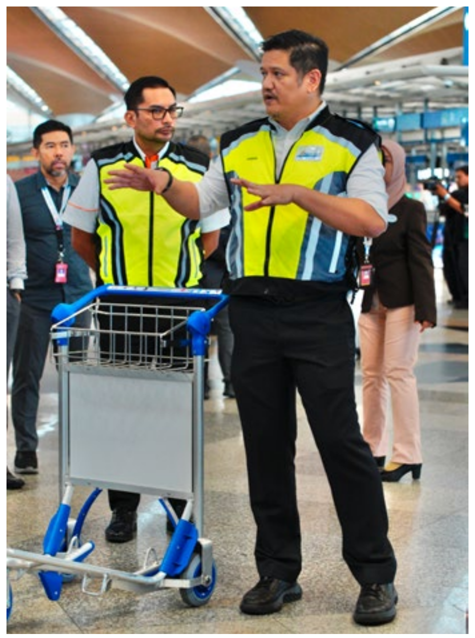
RM30 Million Upgrade for KL International Airport

Underpinned by a strategic focus to transform KL International Airport (KLIA) to provide more enhanced services to drive its growth and capacity, Malaysia Airports has implemented various improvements to deliver more tangible benefits to its passengers and stakeholders alike.

The refreshed transformation is part of the newly privatised airport operator's efforts to realise its long-term ambition to position KLIA as a world-class hub supported by strong connectivity, operational excellence and commitment to passenger-centric service.

Abd Hasman Abd Muhimim, General Manager of Operations at KLIA Terminal 1, told the media that since the first half of 2025 (1H2025), the terminal has undergone a RM30 million upgrade. He unveiled 14 initiatives during a walkabout to provide for a smarter, faster and friendlier experience at the flagship airport.

These improvements are timely with Malaysia chairing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and travel intensifying ahead of Visit Malaysia 2026.



With KLIA's passenger traffic for the 1H2025 growing by 9.9% to 30.1 million compared to the same period last year, Abd Hasman said, "We aim to ensure the best possible service for travellers at every touchpoint."

A total of 36 family-friendly parking bays have been converted from 54 standard bays and sited at the basement and Level five of the short-term car park's blocks B and C. These bays are wider and located closer to the entrances, providing convenience for loading or unloading children, strollers and luggage.

Abd Hasman explained this move came due to the increasing trend of families travelling at KLIA. There is also a Help button where they can request for assistance.

For travellers' convenience, he said that 2,000 outdated baggage trolleys at Level 5 of the Departure Hall have been replaced with newly designed lightweight trolleys featuring strap-free handles and built-in brakes for easier manoeuvring and enhanced safety.

Another 3,000 of these new and more stable trolleys are available at Level 3 of the Arrival Hall.

He added that 50 more robust wheelchairs, built according to the industry specifications for airport use, are now available free of charge at key locations throughout the terminal, with another 50 to be added later.

They are located near Door 4 of the Main Terminal Building (MTB) at Level 5 and at the airside area where the Aerotrain station is located at Gate H. In the Satellite Building, these flexible wheelchairs that designed to go up ramps are available at the Aerotrain station at Gate C.

Wayfinding at the Aerotrain stations has also been improved to help passengers navigate more easily at the MTB, Airside and Satellite Building.

To improve the overall passenger flow at the airport, he said seating areas at Level 5 have been relocated closer to the food and beverage outlets for added convenience and to ease congestion in the high traffic zones.

Abd Hasman said 80 washrooms have also been upgraded into fully integrated accessible facilities for the use of families and passengers with reduced mobility.

These washrooms have wider entrances with wheelchair-friendly layouts, accessible sinks with sensor taps, as well as grab bars and handrails. Additionally, emergency call buttons are reachable from the floor level.

Meanwhile, the nappy change room upgrade initiative will see five nappy change rooms refurbished with three unique themes, 'Fun/Playful, Luxury/Hotel, and Safari/Jungle' to create a more welcoming and family-friendly environment.

Each room is equipped with a feeding area, adult and child toilets, a baby cot, and a hot or warm water dispenser. So far, two of the nappy change rooms have been refurbished with the rest targeted for completion by August 2025.

Strengthening KLIA's reputation as a family-friendly international airport, two of the 'Fun/Playful' themed nappy change rooms will be located at the MTB, while one Luxury/Hotel theme room will be at the MTB Airside.

The Satellite Building, on the other hand, will feature two of the 'Safari/Jungle' themed nappy change rooms.

"We will continuously assess current needs and expand the facilities wherever necessary," Abd Hasman reiterated while showcasing some of the heritage walls or revamped public spaces to celebrate Malaysia's local culture, identity and heritage and turn them into insta-worthy moments for passengers at KLIA.

Saudia's Codeshare with Vietnam Airlines to Enhance Connectivity

Saudi Arabia's national flag carrier, Saudia (SV), has signed a codeshare agreement with Vietnam Airlines (VN) to offer guests expanded travel options for a more seamless journey on flights connecting Jeddah and Riyadh with Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Looking forward to deepening its relationship with VN, Arved von zur Muehlen, SV Chief Commercial Officer said, "We continue to expand our global network, aligning with our strategic objectives to foster economic growth and cultural exchange."

Nguyen Quang Trung, VN Director of Corporate Planning and Development remarked, "As members of the SkyTeam alliance, this partnership allows us to offer our passengers the benefits of a broader global network and enhanced frequent flyer programme options, along with an opportunity to experience the rich culture, heritage, and unique cuisine of Vietnam."

Saudia, named Best Airline Staff Service in the Middle East at the recent 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards, also climbed to 17th place in the global ranking, reflecting excellence across its guests' journey.

His Excellency Engineer Ibrahim Al-Omar, Director General of Saudia Group said, "Rising from 82nd in 2017 to 20th in 2024 and now to 17th in the Skytrax World Airline Rankings is a proud milestone."

This trajectory aligns with SV's recognition as the World's Most Improved Airline for four consecutive years by Skytrax.

Edward Plaisted, Chief Executive Officer of Skytrax praised Saudia's cabin and ground staff for maintaining a service style that is both composed and welcoming.

"This is delivered consistently by a multi-national team that brings a range of cultural strengths to the customer experience.

"It is this blend of professionalism and warmth that continues to leave a lasting impression on passengers."

SV is undertaking the most significant investment programme in its history to elevate the guest experience as part of its long-term vision.

Key initiatives include modernising and expanding its fleet.

Earlier this year, the Saudia Group announced a new aircraft deal with Airbus to add up to 20 new wide-body A330neo aircraft, 10 of which are firm orders for its low-cost carrier, flyadeal.

The deliveries are scheduled to begin in 2027, with the final aircraft arriving in 2029.

This builds on last year's historic deal with Airbus for 105 aircraft.

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

Malaysia Airports' Licence to Win 2025 Brings Back Luxury Car and More

Licence to Win, Malaysia Airports' flagship shopping campaign begins this year from 21 July to 31 December with the theme, Own the Dream, turning every boarding pass into a golden ticket to win the ultimate grand prize, a striking carmine red Porsche 911 Carrera.

Shoppers also stand a chance to win a sleek BMW R1300GS motorbike and dream holidays.

Featuring a lower entry threshold with a minimum spend of RM100, a larger prize pool and new partner rewards tailored to diverse traveller preferences, the campaign this year makes it easier for passengers to shop, dine and pursue their dreams at over 500 retail and dining outlets across Malaysia Airports' international airports in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Langkawi, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu.

In this year's Licence to Win, the airport operator partnered with its premier duty-free retailer, Eraman, and Southeast Asia's top travel platform, Traveloka, to seamlessly blend premium retail with the thrill of exciting rewards.

Traveloka, with over 140 million app downloads and more than 40 million monthly active users, will enhance the experience with exclusive travel vouchers covering flights, hotels and travel activities, enabling passengers to enjoy dream holidays in Switzerland, Australia and Japan.

Senior General Manager for Commercial Services of Malaysia Airports, Hani Ezra Hussin said, "Our goal is to create experiences that go beyond routine. We are making this campaign more engaging, more inclusive and more rewarding."

Aligned with the airport operator's Commercial Reset strategy, she said Licence to Win "reflects how we are reshaping the airport retail experience, making every transaction a touchpoint and every moment an opportunity to connect".

Held at the Sepang International Circuit, the exclusive campaign launch was attended by Dato' Mohd Izani Ghani, Malaysia Airports Managing Director, Zulhikam Ahmad, General Manager of Commercial Business and Zeid Abdul Razak, Chief Financial Officer.

Also present were Hendry Saputra, Vice President of Partnership of Traveloka, and Mathialagan Maniam, Senior Manager of Merchandising of Malaysia Airports (Niaga), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysia Airports involved in retail as well as food and beverage operations, alongside local celebrities such as Awal Ashaari, Scha Alyahya, Daiyan Trisha, Amelia Henderson, and Uyaina Arshad.

For more information, visit **www.malaysiaairports.com.my**

Firefly Moves Jet Operations to KL International Airport from 19 August 2025

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) will relocate Firefly's (FY) jet operations from Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport (SZB) to KL International Airport (KUL) Terminal 1 effective 19 August 2025 while the airline's turboprop services will remain at SZB to ensure ongoing connectivity to key domestic and regional destinations.

FY first launched its jet operations deploying the Boeing B737-800 aircraft out of SZB on 29 August 2024. Operating from SZB and KUL, FY has a fleet size of five B737-800 and nine ATR 72-500 turboprop aircraft.

> *The move to KUL allows FY to scale its jet operations more efficiently, improve passenger connectivity and better leverage MAG's shared capabilities in engineering, ground handling and catering.*
>
> *This decision reinforces our commitment to strengthening KUL as the main aviation hub while continuing to offer accessible air travel options across the country.*

DATUK CAPTAIN IZHAM ISMAIL
Group Managing Director
of Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG)

Additionally, this strategic move is part of MAG's long-term network optimisation plan to enhance operational efficiency and ensure sustainable operations for FY's jet services using the Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Starting 19 August 2025, FY will take off with over 260 weekly flights to more than 15 destinations.

Its first flight from KUL will be to Tawau (TWU) on that day, followed by a phased rollout to Kuching (KCH) and Kota Kinabalu (BKI) on 21 August, Singapore (SIN) on 22 August, Johor Bahru (JHB) on 23 August, Kota Bharu (KBR) and Terengganu (TGG) on 30 August and Sibu (SBW) on 3 September.

FY will also increase its existing KUL to PEN services from twice weekly to six times weekly starting 23 August 2025 and subsequently raise them to 10 times weekly in November 2025.

Passengers flying with FY enjoy complimentary 10 kg checked baggage, a 7 kg carry-on allowance, and inflight refreshments.

Meanwhile, MAG also announced the appointment of Dato' Azizulhasni Awang, the national track cycling icon as its official ambassador for MHsports, which provides tailored travel solutions for sports travellers.

MHsports also offer exclusive discounts on airfares, additional baggage allowance for sporting equipment and flexible booking options to ensure a seamless and rewarding travel experience for the sporting community.

The national carrier will be supporting Dato' Azizulhasni, known as the 'Pocket Rocketman in his ongoing training and participation in international competitions.

For more information, visit **www.fireflyz.com.my** and **www.malaysiaairlines.com**

Loong Air's New Xi'an to Kuala Lumpur Route to Further Strengthen Bilateral Ties

Malaysia's welcome of Loong Air's (GJ) inaugural flight from Xi'an (XIY) at KL International Airport (KLIA) Terminal 2 on 6 July 2025 further strengthens its tourism and economic cooperation established with China following the low-cost carrier's (LCC) debut of its twice-weekly XIY to Penang service on 30 December 2024.

Greeting GJ8721's maiden arrival to Kuala Lumpur (KUL) were Tourism Malaysia Deputy Chairman Dato' Yeoh Soon Hin and its Deputy Director General (Promotion II) Samuel Lee Thai Hung alongside senior representatives from Malaysia Airports.

Leading the delegation from GJ was Li Dong, Vice President (Overseas Business), signifying the airline's growing commitment to Malaysia as a key Southeast Asian hub with its new thrice weekly flights operated by a 174-seat Airbus A320 aircraft.

Dato' Yeoh said, "With Kuala Lumpur now directly connected to Xi'an, we are opening more doors for tourism, business and cultural exchange. This enhanced connectivity reaffirms Malaysia's position as a gateway to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region and a must-visit destination for international travellers.

This timely expansion supports Malaysia's strategic goals for Visit Malaysia 2026, which aims to welcome more Chinese travellers, the third largest source market for international visitors to the country after Singapore and Indonesia.

Malaysia's visa free entry policy for Chinese nationals, extended until 31 December 2026, provides seamless access and encourages longer stays.

Meanwhile, Xi'an, a cultural hub known for its terracotta warriors, reported over 135,000 foreign visitors in the first half of this year, up 124% year-on-year with the majority of the arrivals under visa exemption policies.

Under the new mutual visa free policy agreement between Malaysia and China effective 17 July 2025, citizens of both countries may visit each other visa free for leisure travel, visiting relatives or friends, and for business activities.

The permitted stay is up to 30 days per entry and a maximum cumulative stay of 90 days within a 180-day period.

For more information, visit **www.loongair.cn**

Juneyao Air Expands Connectivity to Kuala Lumpur

Juneyao Air's (HO) recent debut of its direct flight from Shanghai (PVG) to Kuala Lumpur (KUL) has enhanced the convenience for both business and leisure travellers with its four flights weekly using the 162-seat Airbus A320neo aircraft.

The airline's inaugural flight HO 1353 also reinforced KUL's position as a key regional gateway.

Dato' Mohd Izani Ghani, Managing Director of Malaysia Airports said, "Southeast Asia continues to be Malaysia's strongest aviation market, accounting for over 8.1 million passenger movements or 45.1% of total international traffic at KL International Airport (KLIA) for the year-to-date period ending May 2025.

"This new service will stimulate network growth and strengthen regional connectivity, particularly in high-potential markets such as China."

As the fifth carrier to operate direct flights on the PVG to KUL route, HO's latest arrival marked the airline's second destination in Malaysia following its entry into Penang (PEN) on 31 May 2024.

The airline's inaugural flight at KLIA was welcomed by Samuel Lee Thai Hung, Deputy Director General (Promotion II) of Tourism Malaysia, Abd Hasman Abd Muhimim, General Manager of Operations for KLIA Terminal 1, Martin Lee, General Manager of HO Malaysia branch and Saravanan Ramasamy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pos Aviation.

Lee said, "Tourism Malaysia remains committed to working closely with Chinese airlines and trade partners to ensure sustained growth and mutual benefit. This initiative aligns with national strategies to expand market outreach ahead of Visit Malaysia 2026, which will focus on promoting cultural and sustainable tourism in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

"The enhanced air connectivity with PVG also supports regional integration under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle framework, further reinforcing Malaysia's role as a key player in regional tourism development."

For more information, visit **www.global.juneyaoair.com**

More New Routes for Batik Air Malaysia

Batik Air Malaysia's (OD) two new direct services from Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport (SZB) in Subang, Selangor to Bangkok's Don Mueang International Airport (DMK) in Thailand and Kuching International Airport (KCH) in Sarawak respectively on 28 July 2025 mark a significant milestone for the airline, expanding both its regional and domestic connectivity.

Using the 162-seater Boeing 737-800 aircraft, OD operates four times weekly flights to DMK, its first international service from SZB, also popularly known as Subang Airport. Daily services are scheduled to commence in November.

Welcoming the maiden arrival of DMK to SZB, with 80% load factor, were the OD Head of Government Business Development, Mohd Fauzi Rajab, as well as representatives from Tourism Malaysia and Tourism Selangor.

Malaysia emerged as the top source market for Thailand from January to 8 June 2025, contributing 2.04 million visitors out of its total of 15.01 million foreign arrivals, according to Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

Meanwhile, KCH, OD's second East Malaysia daily service from SZB, also enhances the airline's footprint at SZB with its existing flights to Penang (PEN), Kota Bharu (KBR) in Kelantan, Kota Kinabalu (BKI) and Tawau (TWU) via BKI in Sabah, offering passengers an alternative to the flights from KL International Airport (KLIA).

As part of OD's network expansion into Indonesia, the airline will commence flights from Kuala Lumpur (KUL) to Palembang on 12 September 2025, further enhancing KLIA's role as a key gateway for Umrah and international travel.

Palembang, one of the oldest cities in Southeast Asia, is renowned for its historic Ampera Bridge, charming floating markets, traditional songket weaving, and culinary specialities such as pempek, a beloved South Sumatran fish cake.

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

AirAsia Malaysia Resumes Flights from Kuala Lumpur to Palembang

AirAsia Malaysia's (AK) resumption of its daily service to Palembang (PLM) with its inaugural flight from Kuala Lumpur (KUL) on 18 July 2025 marked the return of international status to Indonesia's Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin II Airport.

The reinstatement represents a valuable opportunity to revitalise local tourism, attract more international visitors, especially from Malaysia and spur growth across supporting sectors such as transport, hospitality, and food and beverages.

Dato' Captain Fareh Mazputra, AK Chief Executive Officer (CEO) said, "Resuming our PLM route has been a long-standing priority since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are proud to serve underserved and emerging destinations like PLM, unlocking greater access and opportunity for communities that have long awaited international connectivity."

H. Herman Deru, Governor of South Sumatera said, "The activation of this international flight is expected to give positive impacts towards tourism and economic aspects in South Sumatera."

AK operates direct flights from KUL to Jakarta (CGK), Bali (DPS), Medan (KNO), Yogyakarta (YIA), Banda Aceh (BTJ), Makassar (UPG), Padang (PDG), Pekanbaru (PKU), Balikpapan (BPN), Labuan Bajo (LBJ) and Lombok (LOP).

The low-cost carrier (LCC) also has services from Penang (PEN) to CGK and KNO.

Reaffirming its position as the airline with the largest network between Malaysia and Indonesia, AK will commence the KUL to Semarang (SRG) service on 5 September 2025 and resume its direct routes connecting KUL and Kuching (KCH) to Pontianak (PNK) on 12 September 2025, bringing a total of 223 weekly flights between the two countries.

AK's enhanced regional access will be vital in supporting Malaysia's target of 4.3 million Indonesian arrivals in 2025

Meanwhile, AK's parent company Capital A Berhad announced earlier in July 2025 that its wholly-owned subsidiary entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Airbus to purchase 50 A321XLRs with rights for another 20 such longer-range aircraft valued at USD12.25 billion.

The A321XLRs claim to offer up to 20% lower fuel burn per seat than the A321neo aircraft, significantly improving emissions performance and operating efficiency.

Scheduled for delivery starting 2028 through 2032, this landmark aircraft deal will support the LCC's network expansion, positioning KUL and Bangkok (BKK) as its key aviation hubs besides catering to underserved routes more efficiently, including into Central Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Witnessed by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook, the MoU was signed in Paris between Tony Fernandes, Capital A CEO and Christian Scherer, Airbus Commercial Aircraft CEO.

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

Upgraded Airport FastTrack Service at KL International Airport

Malaysia Airports' recent launch of its upgraded Airport FastTrack (AFT) service at KL International Airport (KLIA) reinforces its commitment to delivering seamless, efficient and premium services to travellers.

The evolution of AFT represents part of the airport operator's broader strategy to position KLIA as a leading global aviation hub with world-class facilities and services.

> *In line with our digitalisation efforts, we have launched a new website, www.myairportfasttrack.com, to provide detailed information on our services and enable easy bookings.*
>
> *This platform reflects our drive to leverage technology to enhance service delivery and passenger convenience, supported by an integrated payment gateway for a smooth and secure user experience.*

DATO' MOHD IZANI GHANI
Managing Director
of Malaysia Airports

Offering a holistic meet-and-greet experience, this premium service ensures passengers receive personalised assistance from the airport curbside to expedite immigration clearance and baggage assistance.

It is complemented by a dedicated AFT lounge located at the KLIA Terminal 1's Departure Hall on Level 5, integrating comfort and convenience for a more connected travel ecosystem for passengers.

Dato' Mohd Izani applauded the AFT team, headed by Sundra Kulendra, General Manager of Sama Sama Hotels Group, in managing major airport logistics, premium airside transfers and high-profile movements, including the recent delegations from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA).

He also introduced Sofia Zara Mustaffa Kamal, 15, Malaysia's youngest female race car driver and rising star in the 2025 F1 Academy circuit, as the AFT brand ambassador, reflecting the essence of fast.

The AFT service at KLIA Terminals 1 and 2 is operated by KL Airport Hotels Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysia Airports.

For more information, visit
www.myairportfasttrack.com.my

All Nippon Airways Signs Strategic Partnership to Boost EduTourism

Japan's largest airline group, All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in promoting educational mobility and tourism between Malaysia and Japan, with a primary focus on international students studying in Malaysia.

The partnership aims to support EMGS's mission to position Malaysia as a premier global education hub, while offering international students seamless travel experiences through ANA.

Highlighting the growing interest among Japanese students to pursue higher education in Malaysia, EMGS Chief Executive Officer, Novie Tajuddin said, "We are seeing a steady increase in applications from Japan, with mobility programme participation rising by 24%, which is the highest to date.

"This collaboration opens new doors for edutourism and international engagement, making it easier for students to explore academic and cultural experiences in both countries, benefiting not only Japanese students but all international students in Malaysia."

ANA's newly appointed General Manager in Malaysia, Akira Tamura echoed this sentiment, emphasising ANA's commitment to connecting the next generation.

"This MoU is not just about air travel, it is about bridging people, knowledge, and cultures."

He added "We are honoured to support the Ministry of Higher Education's vision through this meaningful partnership with EMGS."

ANA offers convenient routes to over 50 domestic destinations across Japan and premium onboard services, including halal meal options and student friendly benefits.

The airline has twice-daily flights from Kuala Lumpur to Tokyo Haneda and Narita airports on its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

The collaboration with EMGS followed after several successful engagements, including the first Higher Education Mobility Carnival held during Malaysia Fair in Tokyo last year and recent initiatives such as the Graduate Pass, a post-study visa allowing international students to stay in Malaysia for up to a year.

Notably, the first Graduate Pass recipient was a Japanese alumna of Monash University Malaysia.

This MoU between ANA and EMGS is expected to pave the way for further collaborative efforts, driving edutourism and reinforcing the long-standing ties between Malaysia and Japan.

For more information, call **+603-2032 1331** or visit
www.ana.co.jp/group/en/my

Upclose with Mahesh Kumar

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Digital Engineering (ADE)

Described as a 'market disruptor' driving ADE through data and technological advances, Mahesh Kumar helms Capital A Berhad's wholly-owned subsidiary, ADE, which was established in September 2020 to deliver a full spectrum of aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services.

This includes line maintenance, base maintenance, workshop capabilities, component and warehouse services as well as engineering support.

Mahesh, who hails from Klang in Selangor, holds a Bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering (2004 to 2008) from the Nehru College of Aeronautics in India. Having joined AirAsia's Engineering Department in 2009, the 39-year-old was involved in various engineering projects, including setting up AirAsia India Engineering and transforming Zest Airways into AirAsia Philippines.

He was appointed in 2015 as the pioneering Senior Vice President, Technical of AirAsia's new aircraft leasing arm, Asia Aviation Capital Limited. Prior to his current appointment, the man was the Head of Fleet and Technical Asset Management at AirAsia. Backed by his extensive experience, his aim is to make ADE a trusted partner for airlines globally.

Since your appointment as CEO, what are some of the achievements accomplished thus far?

With ADE born during the pandemic as a 'COVID baby' out of a need for survival, we have come a long way and are proud today to be one of the largest MRO players in the Asia Pacific. Within a few short years, ADE completed over 180 heavy maintenance checks (C-checks) and managed an average of 16,000 transit checks per monthacross more than 20 airports through our line maintenance operations.

Additionally, we expanded into component workshop capabilities and digital MRO solutions. Our base maintenance footprint grew rapidly with a total of 16 lines, including our flagship 14-line facility, which became operational in August 2024.

ADE also achieved regulatory milestones, having received the Approved Maintenance Organisation certifications in 10 countries. Most recently, we secured approvals from both the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a significant step in enabling us to serve a wider range of customers.

Given our strong foundation built on over 20 years of engineering excellence from AirAsia's Engineering Department, we are confident ADE will continue to grow as a key player in the global MRO landscape, especially through strategic partnerships with players such as GMF Aero Asia in Indonesia to grow a regional landing gear business.

What is the latest development at your 14-line MRO hangar?

As the largest facility of its kind in Malaysia, it can handle up to 14 aircraft simultaneously. We carry out base maintenance for both Airbus A320, A330 and Boeing 737 aircraft for a range of customers here and are proud to share that this hangar in Selangor is fully booked for the next 12 months.

How has the MRO landscape in Asia Pacific changed in recent years following the recovery of air travel?

The MRO landscape in this region has evolved significantly following the recovery of air travel with airlines ramping up capacity to meet growing demand, and that is driving a surge in maintenance needs. At the same time, there are increasing pressures to optimise turnaround times, reduce costs as well as adopt smarter and more sustainable operations. We are seeing a greater focus on digitalisation, predictive maintenance and regional self-sufficiency as airlines and lessors look to reduce reliance on traditional hubs.

What are the opportunities and challenges like for Malaysia, which aims to become a preferred global aerospace outsourcing centre, including for MRO services?

Malaysia has strong potential to be a global aerospace hub, especially for MRO, thanks to our strategic location, cost advantage and skilled workforce. There is a growing opportunity to attract regional carriers, expand

component capabilities and lead in digital MRO. The key challenges are staying ahead of regional competition, scaling up talent and upgrading infrastructure.

After setting up ADE's MRO operations outside of Malaysia in Cambodia, what is next?

We are especially proud that ADE Cambodia was the first entity outside Malaysia to receive full business approvals.

Since then, we have established a presence in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, strengthening our presence across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This reflects our broader commitment to delivering reliable, world-class maintenance solutions throughout ASEAN.

How is your plan going to expand ADE Cambodia's MRO operations to other airports in the country?

With ADE Cambodia's operations headquartered at Phnom Penh International Airport, the country's busiest airport and main international gateway, its strategic location enables us to efficiently support the growing aviation needs of the region. Discussions are still underway regarding our plan to expand to other key airports in Cambodia. Our focus is to build a strong foundation in Phnom Penh while progressively extending our services across the country.

To what extent has smarter data usage helped ADE scale productivity and ensure ADE's profitability?

As a market disruptor, we have built ADE around a digital-first foundation, and smarter data utilisation has played a crucial role in scaling our productivity and ensuring profitability. Our proprietary digital platforms, AEROTRADE® and ELEVADE™, are at the core of this strategy. AEROTRADE® is Asia's first aviation marketplace, simplifying procurement with over USD244 million worth of inventory for Airbus and Boeing aircraft. It is trusted by over 150 global airlines, MROs and original equipment manufacturers, including AirAsia, TransNusa and Setna iO.

Meanwhile, ELEVADE™ is our all-in-one digital MRO platform, integrating real-time aircraft health monitoring, fleet management and workforce optimisation. ELEVADE FLEET, monitoring over 200 aircraft and 3,000personnel, leverages two decades of data to deliver predictive maintenance and enhanced operational visibility. These platforms allow us to improve turnaround times, reduce costs and scale efficiently, positioning ADE not only as a service provider but also as a digital innovator in the MRO space.

These platforms allow us to improve turnaround times, reduce costs and scale efficiently, positioning ADE not only as a service provider but also as a digital innovator in the MRO space.

How has ADE benefited from its focus on third party markets?

While AirAsia Group remains our anchor client, we serve a growing number of airlines worldwide. Our deep expertise in maintaining the A320 and A330 aircraft alongside Boeing 737s enables us to support a wide range of fleet requirement not only for airlines across ASEAN but also in the Middle East, Europe and Australia.

How have your MRO operations contributed to ADE's sustainability efforts?

ADE is committed to sustainability across all areas of our operations. Our hangars are certified green and designed to use clean energy, with ongoing efforts to further reduce our carbon footprint. Through our digital marketplace AEROTRADE®, we help minimise waste by enabling airlines to sell surplus inventory, extending the life of parts and avoiding unnecessary disposal. We also prioritise repairs over replacements to reduce scrap rates and extend component lifecycles. These initiatives reflect our belief that sustainability and operational excellence must go hand in hand in shaping the future of aviation.

How big is your ADE team?

Our total workforce currently stands at 1,805, with 10% of our technicians and engineers being women — a growing number we continue to support through inclusive hiring and development initiatives.

Overall, how do you see the future of MRO in Asia Pacific?

The future of MRO in the region is exceptionally promising, driven by sustained fleet growth, digitalisation and infrastructure investment. As demand continues to rise, the need for efficient, tech-enabled maintenance solutions will only grow. With our specialised skills and competitive pricing, we are well positioned to meet the evolving needs of airlines across Asia Pacific and play a key role in shaping its MRO landscape.

How do you maintain a work-life balance?

I try to find pockets of time to unwind. Sometimes that means travelling, other times just going for a quick run or switching off for a bit. It really depends on the week.


www.samasamahotels.com


www.samasamaexpress/klia


www.samasamaexpress/klia2