



A Monthly Publication of Malaysia Airports ©

Managing Editor

Zainuddin Mohamed

Editorial & Concept

Mediate Communications Sdn Bhd

Editorial & Advertising

Noor Hafiza Ruslan

Nurul Farehah Norsam

Design & Distribution

Mediate Communications Sdn Bhd

Editorial Enquiries

airlink@mediate.com.my

MALAYSIA AIRPORTS HOLDINGS BERHAD

Reg. No: 199901012192

(487092-W)

Aviation Marketing and Development Division

Level 3, Arrival Hall (Domestic)

Main Terminal Building, Terminal 1

KL International Airport

64000 Sepang

Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

marketing@malaysiaairports.com.my

AIRPORT TALK

Malaysia Airports' Journey Towards Sustainability and Regional Leadership 44

AVIATION NEWS

Berjaya Air Welcomes Its First ATR 72-600 with All-Business Class Cabin 46

Emirates Retains World's Most Profitable Airline Position 47

Malaysia Airlines' Strategic Partnerships with Visa Malaysia and Tourism New Zealand 48

Award-Winning Korean Air to Launch Integrated Airline in December 2026 49

Ethiad Airways' Partnership Deals with Uzbekistan Airways, Air Cambodia and Bangkok Airways 50

Singapore Airlines Group's Strategic Initiatives for 2026-2027 51

EVA Air Wins SKYTRAX 5-Star Airline Certification for 11th Consecutive Year 52

Service Delivery and Operational Performance Define Batik Air Malaysia's Growth 52

Cathay Dining Wins Airline Caterer of the Year – Asia at 2026 PAX Readership Awards 53

SPECIAL COVERAGE

Strengthening Malaysia's Position as a Regional MRO Hub 54



K
ICK OFF

U
NWIND

L
IVE IT UP



MORE THAN AN AWE-INSPIRING AIRPORT, A GATEWAY TO THE WORLD.

KL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THE GATEWAY TO GETAWAYS

It all begins at KL International Airport (KUL), one of Asia's major aviation hubs that connects all routes, airlines, and terminals worldwide seamlessly. Plan your route with a memorable experience, right before you experience the globe.



STEP INTO A NEW EXPRESSION OF RETAIL.
BOLD, CURATED, AND DISTINCTLY MALAYSIAN,
ONLY AT MALAYSIA AIRPORTS.

WHERE SHOPPING MEETS CULTURE



Malaysia Airports' Journey Towards Sustainability and Regional Leadership

Malaysia Airports' Penang International Airport (PEN) and Kuching International Airport (KCH) are the latest airports to receive Airports Council International's (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Awards for their Level 1 carbon management and reporting efforts.

The recognition reflects the airport operator's continuous commitment to reduce carbon emissions while advancing long-term sustainability initiatives that are aligned with global aviation targets and ACI's carbon accreditation requirements.

The ACA programme is a globally recognised initiative that assesses and recognises airports' efforts in carbon management and emissions reduction.

Kamaruzzaman Razali, Malaysia Airports Sdn Bhd's (MASB) Chief Operating Officer accepted PEN and KCH's ACA awards during the ACI Asia Pacific and Middle East's Regional Assembly, Conference and Exhibition (RACE) held from 12 to 14 May 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Among the key initiatives undertaken was the installation of solar photovoltaic systems at PEN to reduce reliance on conventional energy sources and lower operational carbon emissions.

The latest recognition follows ACA Level 1 (Mapping) accreditations previously secured by Langkawi International Airport (LGK) and Kota Kinabalu International Airport (BKI), while Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) currently holds ACA Level 3 (Optimisation) accreditation.

These achievements underscore Malaysia Airports' ongoing sustainability and decarbonisation initiatives across its airport network, including energy efficiency measures such as the replacement of conventional lighting systems with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting.

In support of Malaysia's low-carbon aspirations, Malaysia Airports' comprehensive Decarbonisation Roadmap outlines measures aimed to improve operational efficiency, optimise energy consumption and accelerate the adoption of cleaner and more sustainable technologies across the airports under its management.

Malaysia Airports Managing Director, Dato' Mohd Izani Ghani said the roadmap supports the target of achieving a 20% renewable energy mix by 2030 and net zero carbon by 2050, aligning with global aviation efforts to strengthen carbon management and advance green technology adoption.

In addition, Malaysia Airports will play host to the ACI Asia Pacific and Middle East's RACE 2027 in Kuala Lumpur.

The official handover ceremony was announced at the conclusion of the three-day RACE 2006 under the theme, "Airports as Engines of Shared Prosperity", which saw about 500 aviation industry leaders, policymakers, airport operators and stakeholders gathered from across the two regions to discuss key issues shaping the future of aviation.



Malaysia Airports' role as host of RACE 2027 reflects its longstanding engagement with ACI and continued contribution to regional aviation dialogue and industry development.

The airport operator previously hosted major ACI events in Kuala Lumpur in 2009 and the ACI Asia Pacific Small and Emerging Airports Seminar in Langkawi in October 2018.

Building on these experiences, Malaysia Airports looks forward to welcoming the regional aviation community to Kuala Lumpur once again in 2027.

Dato' Mohd Izani said, "This will be an opportunity not only to showcase Malaysia's connectivity and aviation capabilities but also to contribute meaningfully to discussions on the future of airports, particularly in areas such as sustainability, operational resilience, technology and passenger experience."

At this year's conference, Malaysia Airports participated actively through several leadership engagements and speaking sessions involving members of its executive leadership team.

Mohd Izani Ghani was a panellist in the Leaders Dialogue session titled "Prosperity Through Leadership: Reimagining the Airport's Role in a Changing World", where he discussed how airports are evolving in response to changing travel patterns, technological advancements, and increasing demands for connectivity and resilience.



Optimistic of the outlook this year despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainties in the Middle East, which impacted passenger traffic globally, he said the aviation industry has shown resilience as passengers adjusted their travel routes and airports quickly adapted to these demands.

He also called for greater cooperation across the aviation and tourism ecosystem to increase passenger traffic and support Malaysia's aspiration to strengthen its position as a regional aviation hub in Southeast Asia.

With the industry stakeholders focused on working closely together with the government and Malaysia Airports to position KLIA as an alternative hub between Asia and Europe, he said airlines have shown their eagerness to explore and expand into new international routes.

This will not only help support the aviation industry's recovery but also provide more connectivity and seamless travel for passengers.

Malaysia Airports' Latest Updates

Effective 1 June 2026, the Aerotrain service at KL International Airport Terminal 1, has resumed 24-hour operations following the completion of the Comprehensive Action Plan undertaken since 15 November 2025.

Led by Malaysia Airports, the plan was implemented in coordination with the Land Public Transport Agency and verified by independent railway assessors.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the Aerotrain has recorded 100% operational availability since January 2026.

Based on Malaysia Airports' latest data, its local airport network recorded 8.1 million passenger movements in April 2026, bringing its year-to-date total to 35.5 million, an increase of 7.4% year-on-year.

Its flagship gateway, KLIA handled 5.2 million passenger movements in April 2026 and 22.1 million passenger movements during the first four months of this year, representing a 10.9% YoY increase.

Compared to March, traffic in April 2026 returned to normal, following the Hari Raya festive peak and temporary airline schedule adjustments due to the situation in the Middle East.

The successful expansion and operational launch of Malaysia Airports' Sultan Ismail Petra Airport (KBR) in Kota Bharu, Kelantan also strengthen its local network in April 2026 by supporting growing connectivity and passenger traffic in the East Coast region.



From January to April 2026, KBR recorded 562,081 passenger movements, reflecting a 3.9% YoY growth, with international passenger traffic reaching 4,562.

KBR currently operates an international route to Singapore (SIN) via Scoot (TR), with AirAsia Malaysia (AK) starting a second connection four times weekly to Jakarta (CGK) in Indonesia on 16 June 2026 using the Airbus A320 aircraft.

This will significantly increase KBR's capacity, allowing the airport with its upgraded facilities to serve more passengers comfortably while delivering a smoother travel experience.

“The network's continued growth reflects the strength of our long-term strategy, driven by key infrastructure developments such as KBR's expansion, stronger airline connectivity and continuous service enhancements across our airports.”

DATO' MOHD IZANI GHANI
Managing Director
of Malaysia Airports



Berjaya Air Welcomes Its First ATR 72-600 with All-Business Class Cabin

Malaysia's first premium boutique airline, Berjaya Air (J8), is poised for an exciting new chapter following the arrival of its first ATR 72-600 turboprop aircraft at the Berjaya Hangar at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport (SZB) in Subang, Selangor.

Designed to elevate regional travel with comfort, exclusivity and seamless connectivity, the new aircraft, featuring a 26-seater Business Class HighLine cabin in a one-by-one layout, has been certified by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency and Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia for commercial operations.



Syed Ali Shahul Hameed, Group Chief Executive Officer of Berjaya Property Berhad said, "The arrival of the world's first ATR 72-600 in HighLine configuration marks a landmark achievement for J8 and a strong reflection of Malaysia's growing presence in premium regional aviation."

This investment reflects Berjaya Group's long-term confidence in the aviation sector, reinforcing further J8 as a key pillar within the Group's growth strategy to build a strong and sustainable aviation business that can generate long-term value and enhance confidence among investors and industry partners, he added.

Mohd Amri Mohd Akib, General Manager of J8 remarked, "Our ATR HighLine service marks the beginning of our regional connectivity strategy and reinforces our commitment to redefining premium regional travel."



Currently deploying the new ATR 72-600 on its two existing routes - SZB to Redang (RDN) in Terengganu and Seletar (XSP) in Singapore to RDN, the airline will also be using it for the launch of its five new destinations.

They are Koh Samui (USM), Phu Quoc (PQC), Medan (KNO), Pekanbaru (PKU) and Batam (BTH).

J8 is scheduled to launch its inaugural service between SZB and USM on 5 June 2026, with plans to subsequently expand operations to destinations in Vietnam and Indonesia.

Mohd Amri said, "This expansion also enhances connectivity to Berjaya Group's portfolio of hotels and resorts, including destinations such as The Taaras Resort on Redang Island."

With thoughtfully curated experiences, strategic integration with premium destinations and compelling offers, J8 hopes to set a new benchmark for boutique aviation, inviting travellers to rediscover the joy of flying that is more personal, refined, and rewarding.

J8 is slated to receive its second ATR 72-600, also with All-Business seats, in October 2026 from the Toulouse-based manufacturer.

In addition to the ATR 72-600, J8 also operates an ATR 72-500 aircraft, which is currently undergoing maintenance.

For more information, visit www.berjaya-air.com



Emirates Retains World's Most Profitable Airline Position

The Emirates (EK) Group achieved new record profit, revenue and cash balance levels for its financial year ended (FYE) 31 March 2026, despite facing significant challenges in its last reporting month when conflict erupted in the Middle East.

The Group posted a profit after tax of USD5.7billion, up 3% year-on-year (YoY), while its record revenue grew 3% YoY to USD41 billion.

With cash assets at a record USD16.2 billion, reflecting the Group's strong operating profitability, this not only enabled EK to retain its place as the world's most profitable airline but also allowed the Group to further strengthen its business growth.

As at 31 March 2026, EK's global network spanned 152 cities across 80 countries, with its connectivity complemented by 32 codeshare, 117 interline and 15 multimodal partners.

For the FYE 2025-2026, the Group invested USD4.9 billion in new aircraft, facilities, equipment and the latest technologies to support its growth plans.

The Group's order book stood at 367 aircraft, comprising 54 Airbus A350s, 270 Boeing 777x, 35 B787s and eight B777 freighters, with deliveries scheduled through to 2038.

On its deal with Starlink to equip its fleet with high-speed Wi-Fi, 21 of its B777 aircraft have been fitted with the best-in-sky connectivity for customers.

Meanwhile, installation work of the next-generation Starlink Wi-Fi on its first flagship A380 was completed recently, delivering up to 2 Gbps bandwidth and a "better than at home" connectivity experience at 40,000 feet.

This upgraded system, featuring three antennas and enhanced onboard infrastructure, will be rolled out across more A380s this year, with free high-speed internet for all passengers and future support for live television streaming.

To date, 93 of EK's aircraft have been fully refurbished, featuring its widely acclaimed Premium Economy seats, enhanced Business Class, refreshed First Class suites as well as upgraded interiors and finishes in its Economy Class cabins.

“ Our aircraft deliveries and USD5 billion retrofit programme will continue at pace as well as our planned investments in new facilities and equipment. ”

SHEIKH AHMED SAED AL MAKTOUM

Chairman and Chief Executive of the Emirates (EK) Group

On the outlook for 2026-2027, he remarked, "From a fuel perspective, EK is well-hedged until 2028-29. We have worked with our suppliers to secure the volumes required to support our current operations and our scaling up to pre-disruption levels."

For more information, visit www.emirates.com



Malaysia Airlines' Strategic Partnerships with Visa Malaysia and Tourism New Zealand

Malaysia Airlines (MH) and Visa Malaysia have entered a strategic three-year partnership to enhance customer experiences and stimulate travel demand across the airline's global network.

The partnership will focus on joint marketing initiatives, exclusive co-branded offers for Visa cardholders and enhanced digital engagement through data-driven campaigns.

Bryan Foong, Chief Executive Officer of Airline Business at Malaysia Aviation Group said, "Today's travellers expect journeys that are not only seamless but also personalised and rewarding."

Previn Pillay, Country Manager of Visa Malaysia remarked, "Through our partnership with MH, we are unlocking meaningful value for Visa cardholders beyond payments, from rewarding offers and exclusive privileges to smoother booking and travel journeys."

This collaboration underscores both organisations' commitment to advancing Malaysia's position as a key travel hub in Asia Pacific while delivering an elevated and more connected travel experience.

Malaysia's national flag carrier also formalised a two-year strategic partnership recently with Tourism New Zealand to jointly stimulate travel demand to New Zealand (NZ) through integrated marketing initiatives, reinforcing the shared commitment to growing visitor arrivals and elevating destination visibility across key markets.

Delivering its signature Malaysian Hospitality experience, the premium carrier operates 10 weekly direct flights between Kuala Lumpur (KUL) and Auckland (AKL) on its modern flagship Airbus A330neo aircraft which features enhanced comfort and next-generation cabin features.

"The spirit of *manaakitanga* – its deeply rooted culture of welcome and care – resonates strongly with our own promise of Malaysian Hospitality."

BRYAN FOONG

Chief Executive Officer of Airline Business at Malaysia Aviation Group

Angela Blair, General Manager International of Tourism New Zealand said, "NZ cannot wait to welcome more visitors from Malaysia as they take the trip of a lifetime to visit our beautiful country."

"As of February 2026, NZ welcomed 32,200 visitors from Malaysia over the past year, marking a robust 11.5% year-on-year increase."

She added that this strong growth reflected the enduring appeal of NZ's landscapes, culture and unique experiences, which was further supported by MH's increased capacity on the KUL-AKL route.

Meanwhile, MH and Srilankan Airlines (UL) recently expanded their codeshare partnership for several destinations.

These destinations include Brisbane (BNE), Chiang Mai (CNX), Da Nang (DAD), Kuching (KCH), Phnom Penh (PNH), Phuket (HKT) and Yangon (RGN) from Kuala Lumpur (KUL), unlocking further opportunities for tourism growth and enhanced connectivity for travellers.

For more information, visit www.malaysiaairlines.com



Award-Winning Korean Air to Launch Integrated Airline in December 2026

Korean Air (KE) will emerge as an integrated flag carrier on 17 December 2026 following the approval of the merger agreement by both the boards of KE and Asiana Airlines (OZ) on 13 May.

With a formal contract execution conducted the next day, all OZ's assets, liabilities, rights, obligations and personnel was absorbed by KE, marking the completion of a consolidation process spanning over five years after the signing of an initial share subscription deal in November 2020.

KE said it will apply for Operations Specifications amendments to standardise OZ's aircraft and safety systems under KE's existing Air Operator Certificate in June 2026.

Once the domestic approvals are finalised, the airline will proceed with sequential regulatory filings with international aviation authorities to align safety management systems and operational protocols across its expanded global network.

To support its expanded operations, KE is finalising specific infrastructure investments such as service upgrades, training standardisation, facility modernisation as well as enhancing its maintenance, repair and overhaul capacity.

Additionally, KE is finalising the loyalty programme consolidation in coordination with the Korea Fair Trade Commission and relevant authorities to ensure a seamless transition for passengers.

In terms of passenger business outlook, the airline is proactively responding to external factors such as fuel prices, exchange rates and market supply conditions.

KE entered into an emergency management system effective 1 April 2026, optimising internal cost efficiency with safety as the top priority.

It is focusing on high yield inbound sales from Southeast Asia/Oceania and strong transit demand from Europe, benefiting from decreased market supply of the Middle East carriers.

Meanwhile, at the recent Global Traveler's 14th annual Leisure Lifestyle Awards, KE was recognised for excellence in in-flight dining, earning the Best Airline Onboard Menu title for its First Class cabin for the third consecutive year.

Its other global honours include being named Best Cabin Service at the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX) Best Awards 2026 and earning the APEX Five Star Global Airline rating for the ninth consecutive year in 2025.

KE was also recognised as the Airline of the Year 2025 by Airlineratings.com. Apart from holding Skytrax's Five Star Airline rating for the fifth consecutive year in 2025, it was also named Asia Airline of the Year by CAPA in 2025.

As one of the world's top 20 airlines, the founding member of the SkyTeam alliance carried more than 25 million passengers in 2025.

Currently, KE serves 116 cities in 39 countries on five continents with a modern fleet of 167 aircraft and employs over 20,000 staff.

For more information, visit www.koreanair.com



Etihad Airways' Partnership Deals with Uzbekistan Airways, Air Cambodia and Bangkok Airways

Etihad Airways (EY) and Uzbekistan Airways' (HY) codeshare agreement, which became effective on 15 May 2026, will be available for travel from 9 August, opening Central Asia for EY's customers to eight destinations across Uzbekistan via Tashkent (TAS), its capital and largest city in Central Asia.

Arik De, EY's Chief Revenue and Commercial Officer said, "Uzbekistan is one of the most exciting markets in our network right now."

As one of Central Asia's fastest-growing inbound markets, travellers are drawn to Uzbekistan's Silk Road heritage of Samarkand (SKD) and Bukhara (BHK), among other things.

Shukhrat Yadgarov, Deputy Chairman of the Board for Commerce and Tourism at HY said, "We are confident this agreement will serve as a strong air bridge between our nations and contribute significantly to the further development of tourism, cultural exchange, and business relations."

The two carriers are also developing a frequent flyer partnership (FFP) between Etihad Guest and UzAirPlus, set to expand reward options for members of both programmes.



With HY's addition, the partner network of the United Arab Emirates' national carrier now spans 46 codeshare and over 130 interline partners, the largest of any non-alliance airline, giving guests single-ticket and through-fare access to over 350 destinations worldwide.

Additionally, EY's launch of its codeshare deal with Air Cambodia (K6) earlier this year not only gave its customers direct access to Cambodia's iconic Angkor Wat temple complex in Siem Reap (SAI) but also opened up key destinations across Vietnam through the airline's interline partnership.

The partnership expanded EY's Southeast Asia (SEA) footprint that included Ho Chi Minh City (SGN), Da Nang (DAD) and Phu Quoc (PQC).

Eng Molina, Chief Commercial Officer at K6 said, "This partnership with EY strengthens connections between SEA and the Middle East."

Meanwhile, Etihad Guest, EY's award-winning loyalty programme recently launched a new FFP with Bangkok Airways' (PG) FlyerBonus programme, enabling members of both loyalty programmes to redeem rewards when travelling across either airline's network.



The FFP demonstrates EY's commitment to expand choices and build deeper connections with travellers across Asia and beyond.

For more information, visit etihad.com



Singapore Airlines Group's Strategic Initiatives for 2026-2027

Singapore Airlines (SQ) is making major investments to significantly elevate its end-to-end customer experience, underscoring the commitment to maintaining its leadership position in the highly competitive airline industry.

The airline will unveil its next-generation long-haul cabin products towards the end of 2026, alongside a refreshed KrisWorld in-flight entertainment system, enhancements to its food and beverage programme, and all-new amenity kits.

Additionally, SQ will progressively introduce Starlink's low earth orbit satellitebased broadband connectivity for in-flight Wi-Fi on selected aircraft from 2027.

Committed to its 25.1% investment in Air India (AI) Group, which represents a core component of its long-term multi-hub strategy, SQ is working closely with its partner, Tata Sons, to support AI's transformation programme.

SQ and AI added one domestic and 20 international destinations to their codeshare arrangement from 4 May 2026, bringing the total codeshare points between the two airlines to 82 destinations across 27 countries and territories.

Meanwhile, following the final regulatory approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia received in January 2026 for the SQ and Malaysia Airlines' (MH) joint business partnership, SQ said this strategic collaboration will be implemented progressively in the second half of this year.

It is expected to deepen their commercial cooperation to include initiatives such as revenue sharing flights, joint fare products and coordinated flight schedules across both markets.

Strengthening its win-win partnership, SQ also formalised a joint marketing Memorandum of Understanding with Tourism Malaysia in May 2026 to drive international arrivals and boost regional air connectivity.

In light of the current volatile operating environment arising from the geopolitical tension in the Middle East, SQ said the Group will continue to leverage its robust balance sheet, dual brand airline portfolio and digital capabilities, particularly in generative artificial intelligence, to pursue growth opportunities.

Holding one of the strongest balance sheets in the airline industry, its Group shareholders' equity stood at SGD17.3 billion as of 31 March 2026, SGD1.6 billion higher year-on-year (YoY).

Harnessing its dual airline portfolio, SQ and its wholly-owned low-cost subsidiary, Scoot (TR), carried a record 42.4 million passengers for the financial year ended (FYE) 31 March 2026, up 7.7% YoY as global demand for air travel remained healthy.

For the year under review, the Group's fleet comprised 218 passenger and freighter aircraft with an average age of seven years and nine months. Of the total, SQ operated 148 passenger aircraft and seven freighters.

Out of the Group's passenger network covering 134 destinations in 35 countries and territories, SQ served 77 destinations and TR 82.

Although SQ Group's net profit declined by 57.4% to SGD1.184 million, weighed down by losses from its stake in AI for the FYE 31 March 2026, it achieved a record revenue of SGD20.522 million, up 5% YoY.

For more information, visit www.singaporeair.com



EVA Air Wins SKYTRAX 5-Star Airline Certification for 11th Consecutive Year

EVA Air (BR) has earned the SKYTRAX 5-Star Airline certification for the 11th consecutive year, reaffirming its position among the world's top airline rankings.

The latest evaluation highlights airline's outstanding performance across multiple areas, including flight safety, cabin crew professionalism, aircraft cleanliness, business class amenities and onboard beverage quality.

The airline also achieved strong scores for ground services, including check-in efficiency, transfer operations, baggage handling and lounge functionality, demonstrating a strong commitment to premium service at every stage of the passenger journey.

Currently, only around 10 airlines worldwide hold the coveted 5-Star Airline status given by SKYTRAX, a globally recognised aviation rating organisation that introduced its airline rating system in 1999.

BR President Clay Sun said, "Looking ahead, the company remains focused on enhancing safety standards, advancing service innovation and integrating sustainability into its operations, guided by its core principles of Safety, Service and Sustainability."

Additionally, BR was ranked eighth among the World's Safest Airlines by AirlineRatings.com for the 13th consecutive year, further reinforcing its reputation for operational excellence.

The airline will launch a new route from Taipei (TPE) to Washington D.C. (IAD) on 26 June 2026, offering four flights weekly and increasing its total weekly flights to 98.

The new route will grow its North American network to include 10 gateways, of which three will feature its fourth-generation Premium Economy class.

For more information, visit www.evaair.com



Service Delivery and Operational Performance Define Batik Air Malaysia's Growth

Batik Air Malaysia (OD) recently received the Premium Travel Experience Award at the BISNES Sinar Harian Awards 2026, reflecting the airline's continued focus on elevating the passenger's travel experience through consistent service enhancement, product refinement and customer-centric initiatives.

The award was received on behalf of the airline by OD's Regional Marketing Manager, Azira Arif.

OD Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Chandran Rama Muthy said, "At the heart of our hybrid airline's approach is a simple principle, that is, to treat every passenger the way we would like to be treated."

Earlier in March 2026, OD was recognised as the Best Full-Service Airline in 2025 at the eighth ASEAN Records and second ASIA Records Awards.

Overall, the airline delivered a stronger operational performance in April 2026, achieving an on-time performance (OTP) of 81% compared to the previous month. Its operations at KL International Airport (KUL) also recorded an encouraging OTP of 84%.

OD recently launched four times weekly direct flights from Banda Aceh (BTJ), a city in Indonesia, to Kuala Lumpur (KUL), bringing it to 11 local destinations within the country.

Indonesia is the third largest source market to Malaysia with 1.05 million visitor arrivals in the first quarter of 2026, with the figure down 3.3% year-on-year.

In light of this, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing recently visited Indonesia to strengthen bilateral and tourism ties, including improving flight connectivity, where strategic meetings were held with Lion Group, which includes OD.

For more information, visit www.batikair.com



Cathay Dining Wins Airline Caterer of the Year – Asia at 2026 PAX Readership Awards

Cathay Dining, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Cathay Group, has been named Airline Caterer of the Year – Asia at the 2026 PAX Readership Awards, demonstrating its new historic operational milestone.

On 14 February 2026, the team successfully produced and uplifted over 100,000 meals, setting a new single-day record while seamlessly managing peak travel demand and maintaining the highest standards of culinary quality.

Cathay Dining Chief Operating Officer Michael Winner said, "To win this award shortly after a historic operational milestone is an incredible achievement.

"It is a true reflection of our teams' dedication to executing complex logistics flawlessly, ensuring every meal meets our exacting quality standards before it takes to the skies."

According to the latest data released by Cathay Pacific (CX), Hong Kong's flagship carrier carried almost 10.8 million passengers in the first four months of 2026, up by 19% year-on-year, with a load factor (LF) of 87.7%.

CX Chief Customer and Commercial Officer Lavinia Lau said, "Looking ahead, demand is expected to remain resilient supported by seasonal leisure travel and event-driven traffic."

Meanwhile, Cathay Cargo, a subsidiary of the Cathay Group that serves as the cargo arm for passenger airlines, including CX and HK Express under the Group's umbrella, recorded an 8% increase to 574,068 kg during this period, with a LF of 58.8%.

Lau added, "We were also delighted to welcome Bangkok back into our freighter network on 6 May 2026 using a Boeing 747-400 freighter after a 10-year hiatus, further strengthening our presence in Southeast Asia."



Cathay Cargo recently launched Manage Booking, a significant upgrade to the carrier's online booking platform that gives freight forwarders direct control over booking modifications.

Available 24/7 via www.cathaycargo.com, the new feature addresses a longstanding industry challenge, that is, the need to make changes quickly after bookings are confirmed, without relying on phone calls, manual workflows or waiting for follow-up during office hours.

Manage Booking enables freight forwarders to handle routine changes directly through the platform, including the updating of shipper or consignee information, flight and date adjustments, and shipment size modifications.

Dominic Perret, Director Cargo of Cathay Cargo said, "As the air cargo industry evolves, we are committed to leading that transformation by keeping our customers at the centre of every innovation."

Manage Booking represents the latest in its digital initiatives to set new standards for air cargo, including becoming the first airline globally to offer real-time customs clearance status via the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) ONE Record protocol.

For more information, visit www.cathaydining.com and www.cathaycargo.com



Strengthening Malaysia's Position as a Regional MRO Hub

Malaysia's maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) sector is on track to achieve an annual revenue target of RM55.2 billion by the end of the decade under the Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030, according to Deputy Minister of Investment Trade and Industry, Sim Tze Tzin at the opening of the MRO Southeast Asia 2026 conference held recently in Kuala Lumpur.

Sim said the figure accounts for about 20 to 25% of Asia Pacific's (APAC) MRO market, which is projected to surpass USD60 billion by the end of the decade.

"Our MRO segment is the true heart of the industry, providing high value livelihood for over 12,000 workers."

Citing global giants such as Airbus, Boeing, GE Aerospace, Safran and Turkish Aerospace Industries, which have chosen to establish their presence in Malaysia, he remarked, "They were not just looking at our strategic location alone, they were betting on our Malaysian talents and engineering excellence."

"Moving forward," Sim said "Malaysia is aiming for a sustainable, digitalised and globally competitive future. We will ensure that Made in Malaysia and Maintained in Malaysia remain gold standards in the global skies."

Stating that the sky is not the limit, he reminded that as regional competition intensifies, the country must move further up the value chain.

"We are shifting our focus toward higher-value MRO segments such as components, engine maintenance and even avionics."

To support this shift, the government is strengthening key enablers under the national blueprint. Under infrastructure, for instance, it is revitalising Subang Airport (SZB) through the regeneration plan and developing the 445-acre Selangor Aerotech Park (SAP) within the KLIA Aeropolis.

"These hubs provide a scalable environment for MRO operators and tier one suppliers," said Sim, who also highlighted that Malaysia is accelerating the adoption of advanced solutions, including predictive maintenance and digitalised MRO tools.

Earlier, in his keynote address as host sponsor, Bryan John Thompson, Malaysia Airports Chief Airports Officer, noted that the airport operator's integrated aerospace ecosystems at Subang Airport (SZB) and the Selangor Aerotech Park (SAP) host more than 30% of Malaysia's aerospace operators, which collectively contribute approximately RM25 billion, or nearly 40% of the country's aerospace revenue annually.



SZB continues to support high value MRO and regional training activities through its dedicated helicopter centre and other facilities.

Meanwhile, phase one the SAP, covering 200 acres and currently under development, has secured GE Aerospace as its anchor tenant. The company will occupy half of the development area to expand its presence in Malaysia, including the establishment of engine test cells and the provision of MRO services.

Thompson said infrastructure works for phase one are progressing as planned and remain on track for completion in the first quarter of 2027.

He added, "Amid these industry developments and growth, we maintain a strong focus on sustainability while ensuring we are responsible and supported by future-ready infrastructure."

Commenting on MRO SEA 2026, which is organised in collaboration with Aviation Week Network, Malaysia Airports Managing Director, Dato' Mohd Izani Ghani, said the strong participation at the conference not only reflects the growing importance of Malaysia's aerospace ecosystem but also the need for stronger regional collaboration as aviation demand across Asia Pacific continues to expand.

"As aviation growth accelerates across the region, the strength of an MRO hub will increasingly depend on how well the wider ecosystem is connected from infrastructure and talent development to supply chains, investment facilitation and industry partnerships."

Dato' Mohd Izani continued, "Malaysia Airports is committed to supporting this growth by strengthening the ecosystem surrounding

our airports, particularly across KLIA and SZB, where aerospace, aviation services and connectivity continue to evolve in tandem."

Preparing for the next phase of aerospace growth, the airport operator remains committed to strengthening the infrastructure, partnerships and ecosystem needed to support a more connected, competitive and future-ready aviation industry.

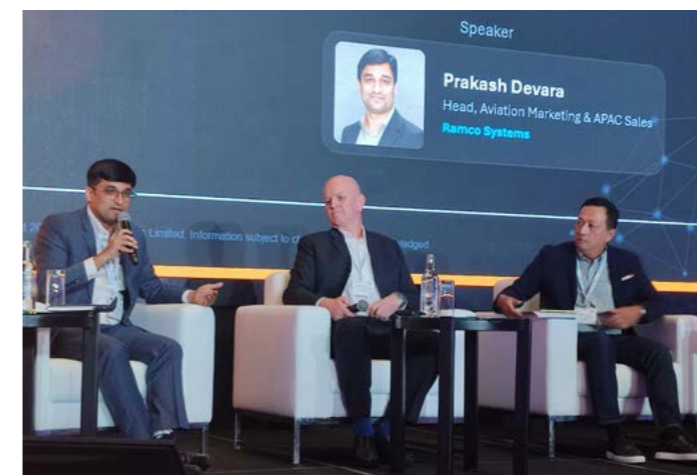
Held from 13–14 May 2026, MRO SEA brought together speakers and industry leaders from across the global aviation sector, reinforcing the role of industry platforms in fostering collaborations that will help shape the next decade of aviation.

Participants included Airbus, GE Aerospace, MTU Maintenance, KLM Engineering & Maintenance, Guangzhou Aircraft Maintenance Engineering, FL Technics Indonesia and Asia Digital Engineering, reflecting growing international interest in the region's expanding aviation market.

Malaysia Airports hosted the evening reception at the end of the first day of the conference at the W Hotel's WET Deck rooftop bar on Level 12, where delegates enjoyed stunning views of the iconic Petronas Twin Towers alongside a showcase of Malaysia's diverse culture, cuisine, arts and heritage.

During a panel discussion, ADE Chief Executive Officer, Mahesh Kumar revealed plans for an additional hangar at KLIA, targeted for completion by the fourth quarter of 2027.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Capital A, the company currently operates two hangars at the airport.





THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Need assistance? We are here to help. 'The Butterfly Effect' initiative is designed to provide a calm and supportive airport experience.

Through small gestures and thoughtful assistance, 'The Butterfly Effect' helps create a more relaxing journey for passengers.

- Look out for our **CARE Ambassadors** in orange uniforms, ready to assist you.
- Visit any **Information Counter** at KLIA Terminal 1 or Terminal 2 for any enquiries.

Scan the QR code to learn more



An inclusive airport experience for all.

