

FROM CHANGI TO CENTRAL ASIA



To commemorate this new link, Mr Akmal Akbarov, First Deputy General Director of Uzbekistan Airways and Mr Nabijon Kasimov, the Chairman of the Association of Private Touristic Organisations of Uzbekistan were on board the inaugural flight that landed at Changi.

From left – Mr Wong Woon Liong, Senior Advisor of Changi Airport Advisory Group, Mr Nabidjon Kasimov, Chairman of the Association of Private Touristic Organizations of Uzbekistan, Mr Lee Seow Hiang, Chief Executive Officer of Changi Airport Group, Mr Akmal Akbarov, First Deputy General Director of Uzbekistan Airways, His Excellency Alisher Kurmanov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Korea, Mr Yam Kum Weng, Executive Vice President of Changi Airport Group (Air Hub & Development), Mr Yacoob Piperdi, Executive Vice President of SATS, Mr Wong Hong, Executive Vice President of SATS (Food Solutions), Mr Utkur Alimov, Uzbekistan Airways General Manager (Singapore).

Photo courtesy of Changi Airport Group.

Holiday-makers in Singapore can look forward to more interesting itineraries and exotic destinations including the Silk Routes to Tashkent and other historical Uzbek cities like Bukhara and Khiva. Operating a twice-weekly service between Tashkent and Singapore, Uzbekistan Airways, the national carrier of the Republic of Uzbekistan commenced services

at Changi Airport on 4 April 2014. This marks the launch of Singapore's first direct air link to Central Asia.

Uzbekistan is among Central Asia's most rapidly developing economies. Since 2006, the country's GDP growth has outperformed those of developing European and Central Asian markets. With its strong robust economic growth, there has been a growing interest amongst Singapore businesses to explore commercial opportunities in Central Asia, resulting in a strong increase in bilateral trade, which more than doubled in 2013 to S\$28 million.

The launch of the new Tashkent-Singapore service is a welcomed addition as it will foster stronger bilateral economic ties and people flow between the two countries.

CAG's Senior Vice-President for Market Development, Mr Lim Ching Kiat, expressed optimism for this new development, "Passenger traffic between Central Asia and Southeast Asia/Southwest Pacific has been registering good growth over the last three years and we believe there is tremendous growth potential for the new Uzbekistan Airways service. We will continue to work with the airline to realise its growth aspirations in Asia."