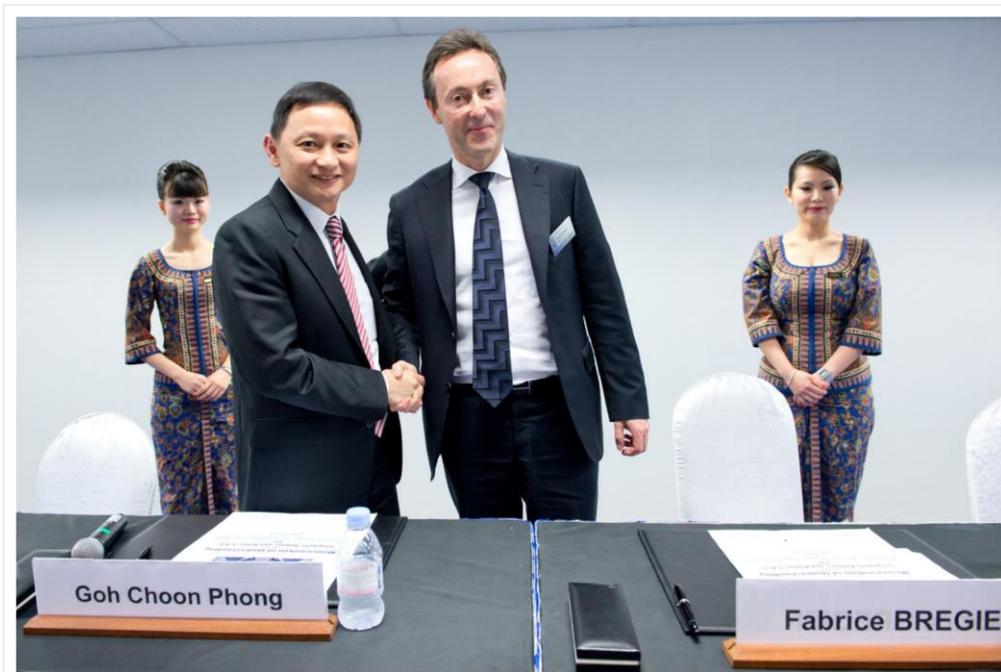


NEW FLIGHT TRAINING CENTRE TO BOOST REGION'S PILOT TRAINING CAPABILITIES



The two aviation giants, SIA and Airbus recognise the potential of this joint venture in meeting the growing demand in pilot training. Photo courtesy of SilkAir.

As the demand for air travel continues to see exponential growth in the Asia-Pacific region, regional demand for aircraft has soared. With an expanding Airbus fleet in the region, Singapore Airlines and Airbus have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a flight training joint venture in Singapore to fulfil the flight training needs in the region.

The Airbus Asia Training Centre (AATC) will offer full pilot training using flight simulators for Airbus A320, A330, A340, A350 and A380 aircraft types. The facility is the newest in a network of Airbus training centres around the world in cities such as Beijing, Miami and Toulouse. Estimated to cost approximately \$80-million, it will be 55% owned by Airbus and 45% owned by Singapore Airlines.

Noting the potential of this joint venture, Mr Goh Choon Phong, CEO of Singapore Airlines, shared, "This partnership makes good business sense for Singapore Airlines, while also enhancing Singapore's position as a leading aviation hub. The experience of Singapore Airlines' instructor pilots combined with Airbus' own experience will ensure that AATC is a centre of excellence, providing a significant boost to the region's pilot training capabilities." SIA is hoping to capitalise on the growing need for training as regional demand for aircraft soars. Industry experts have also commented that while the centre will serve mostly SIA pilots initially, it is expected to include those of other airlines in the region over time.

Airbus President and CEO, Mr Fabrice Brégier echoed the same sentiments, noting that the centre would be a great boon to the region as the AATC would provide comprehensive training services for pilots in the Asia-Pacific. He also emphasised that the venture underscores Airbus' strategy to providing innovative solutions to its clients for the entire Airbus fleet.