

## 3RD ANNUAL ICAO AIR SERVICES NEGOTIATION CONFERENCE CREATES NEW AVIATION LINKS FOR SINGAPORE



Delegations of Singapore and Ethiopia



Delegations of Singapore and Fiji

The 3rd annual International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air Services Negotiation Conference (ICAN 2010) held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 28 June to 2 July, was an opportunity for civil aviation authorities around the world to congregate and engage each other in air services negotiations. Through this international platform, Singapore took the opportunity to tighten its aviation network with the rest of the world.



Delegations of Singapore and Rwanda

At the conference, Singapore successfully established new Open Skies Agreements (OSAs) with four countries, namely Barbados, Brazil, Jamaica and Rwanda. These air links will allow both sides to operate passenger and cargo services between the respective countries and tap on traffic from third party countries to improve the commercial viability of their own start-up operations. Singapore also concluded an open skies framework with Fiji, specifically in cargo services and

expanded traffic rights entitlements for passenger operations between both countries.

There are currently no direct flight connections between Singapore and Latin America or the Caribbeans. New direct air links will allow businesses in the respective regions to access more

markets by tapping into each country's connectivity to their region, thereby increasing investments and trade.

Yap Ong Heng, Director-General, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) welcomed the recent developments, saying, "Apart from having to operate in a heavily-regulated environment, airlines also have to contend with oil price and market fluctuations. It is thus critical for countries to put in place an air services framework that accords airlines greater commercial freedom to respond to market opportunities. I am therefore happy to note that Singapore and like-minded bilateral partners have concluded liberal air services agreements in recognition of the benefits that they can bring to airlines, the travelling public and the wider economy through increased trade, investments and tourism."