

BOOSTING CONNECTIVITY WITH NEW OPEN SKIES AGREEMENTS



Singapore is continually enhancing its connectivity to boost trade and travel between Singapore and countries throughout the world. Recently, it concluded Open Skies Agreements (OSAs) with Costa Rica and Albania. On 13 January 2015, Transport Minister Lui Tuck Yew and his Costa Rican counterpart, the Minister of Public Works and Transport Dr Carlos Segnini Villalobos signed the Singapore-Costa Rica OSA. The conclusion of the Singapore-Albania OSA closely followed on 19 January 2015 with Foreign Affairs Minister K Shanmugam inking the agreement with Albania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ditmir Bushati.

Under these agreements, designated airlines will be free to fly between the respective contracting countries without any restrictions in capacity, frequency or aircraft type. Mr Lui commented that the increased flexibility granted to local carriers to tailor their services under the OSA will enable them to respond more swiftly to changes in the market.

With these new OSAs, Singapore now has more than 130 Air Services Agreements (ASAs), of which over 60 are OSAs. Such partnerships reflect Singapore's ongoing commitment to promoting a liberal bilateral and multilateral air service that will boost its status as a global air hub for both businesses and travellers.