

CHANGI AIRPORT ENHANCES ITS CONNECTIVITY WITH ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES



Ethiopian Airlines' new service further boosts Singapore's air hub status. From left – Senior Advisor of Changi Airport Advisory Group, Mr. Wong Woon Liong, Ethiopian Airlines Area Manager, Mr. Solomon Bekele, Executive Vice President (Air Hub & Development) of Changi Airport, Mr. Yam Kum Weng, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO, Mr. Tewolde Gebremariam, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Singapore, H.E. Mr Seyoum Mesfin, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Trade & Industry Singapore, Mr. Lee Yi Shyan, Ethiopian State Minister for Ministry of Trade and Industry, H.E. Mr. Tadesse Haile, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary (Southeast Asia & ASEAN) and Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the African Union, Mr. Vanu Gopala Menon.

Holiday-makers in Singapore looking for exciting and exotic destinations can now add Ethiopia to their list as Singapore Changi Airport welcomes Ethiopian Airlines to its family of airlines. The East African carrier will operate a thrice-weekly service between Singapore and the capital city of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, creating a new city link for Changi Airport and further enhancing its position as a global air hub.

Singapore shares strong economic ties with Africa and is one of the continent's largest ASEAN investors, with significant investments made in the sectors of consumer products, water preservation and construction. Similarly, African companies have been progressively using Singapore as a springboard to venture into the burgeoning Asia-Pacific region. In terms of passenger movements, more than 1.08 million passengers have travelled between these two regions in the past 12 months, an increase of about 45 per cent from five years ago, making the commencement of this route a welcome addition.

To commemorate this new link, Ethiopia's State Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Tadesse Haile and Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and National Development, Mr Lee Yi Shyan, were on board the inaugural flight. They were accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer for Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Tewolde Gebremariam, among other senior government officials.

Showing strong support for bilateral Ethiopia-Singapore ties, the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Singapore, His Excellency Seyoum Mesfin, was also present to welcome Ethiopia's first flight to Singapore.

CAG's Executive Vice President for Air Hub & Development Mr Yam Kum Weng said of the new route: "We are proud to welcome one of Africa's fastest growing and most reputable airlines to Changi Airport : the cooperation between Ethiopian Airlines and Singapore Airlines not only connects Singapore with Ethiopia but also on a broader scale, Southeast Asia, Southwest Pacific with the entire Eastern and Central Africa region. This cooperation will further strengthen Singapore's air hub position."