

CHANGI AIRPORT REGISTERS RECORD PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN 2012



With record passenger numbers registered in 2012, Changi Airport is pushing ahead with terminal development and expansion plans to ensure that passengers continue to enjoy the Changi Experience that Changi Airport is renowned for. *Photo courtesy of Changi Airport Group.*

Changi Airport ended 2012 registering more than 51.2 million passenger movements, a 10% increase over 2011, just two years after reaching the 40-million milestone in 2010. Flight movements grew 7.6% to 324,700 while cargo volumes declined 3.2% to 1.81 million tonnes, suppressed by uncertainties in the global economy. Despite the downward pressure on cargo volumes, niche segments such as perishables, live animals and pharmaceuticals grew during the year. Changi also achieved growth in cargo tonnage to and from Africa and the Oceania region.

Passenger traffic at Changi Airport has grown strongly in the past two years due mainly to an increasing number of low-cost airlines and high demand for intra-Asia travel. Robust growth in travel to and from Northeast Asia (9.9%) and South Asia (12.4%) also contributed to the increase since the beginning of the year. There was also encouraging improvement in demand

for travel to and from Europe despite weak market conditions. In addition, traditionally strong markets such as Southeast Asia (9.7%), Southwest Pacific (9.4%) and Europe, continued to grow healthily, accentuating Changi's status as a major hub in the Asia Pacific.

Besides increasing demand on traditional gateway routes such as Beijing, Frankfurt and Guangzhou, which registered the strongest percentage increase in passenger traffic to and from Singapore, Changi Airport's connectivity to secondary cities was also enhanced during the year – Australia's Gold Coast, Paro in Bhutan, Taiyuan in China, Visakhapatnam in India, Padang in Indonesia, Kota Bahru in Malaysia and Iloilo in the Philippines.

Changi Airport also welcomed five new carriers. Singapore-based Scoot commenced operations at Changi, providing travellers with more options with its low cost medium haul offerings to destinations in Australia, China, Japan and Taiwan. Other airlines such as Bhutan flag-carrier Drukair, AirAsia Philippines, Shenzhen Airlines and all-cargo carrier Yangtze River Express also commenced services at Changi Airport.

Highlighting Changi Airport Group (CAG)'s performance in 2012, CAG Chief Executive Officer, Mr Lee Seow Hiang, said, "2012 was indeed a good year for us. In spite of the economic challenges faced by the aviation industry, we stayed nimble and worked extremely closely with our partners. He added, "For our millions of passengers, CAG remains committed to improving the Changi Experience so that they and airport visitors alike continue to discover delightful moments while at Changi. This commitment will drive our development plans for the new Terminal 4, construction of which will begin this year. In the near term, Changi Airport's performance will depend largely on how quickly markets recover from the slowdown. But we are confident that CAG's strong partnership with our stakeholders will see Changi through the challenges that lie ahead."