

EXTENDING SINGAPORE'S CONNECTIVITY TO THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

Russian carrier Vladivostok Air started flying twice weekly between Singapore and Vladivostok via Hong Kong on 21 October. The route to and from Vladivostok, in the Russian Far East, is the ninth new city link for Changi this year and a new holiday destination for holidaymakers. The addition of this city link is a positive development, signalling a strengthening of trade and tourism ties between Singapore and Russia, as well as the greater PrimorskyKrai region, the largest economy in the Russian Far East. Bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$5.2 billion in 2010 since the launch of the Russia-Singapore Business Forum in 2006. Passenger traffic between Singapore and Russia also reached an all-time high in 2010. During the first eight months of this year, air traffic movement and visitor arrivals from Russian increased by further 34 per cent and five per cent respectively compared to the same period last year.

With Singapore's attractive tourism activities and excellent connectivity to Southeast Asia, it serves as a convenient transit destination for Russian travellers to package a 'city-plus-beach' holiday experience by pairing the city-state with renowned nearby resort destinations like Bali and Phuket. Yam KumWeng, Executive Vice President for Air Hub Development, Changi Airport Group, said, "Vladivostok Air's entry into the Singapore market is timely to serve the growing demand of Russian travellers wanting to explore Singapore and other parts of Southeast Asia. We look forward to working closely with the airline to sustain and grow this important link between Russia and Singapore."