



## ISSUE 16

# LEARNING EXCHANGE TO IMPROVE E-FREIGHT

The e-freight collaboration between Amsterdam Airport Schipol, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and Changi Airport Group (CAG), was taken a notch higher in November, as Schipol Cargo hosted a three-day study programme for 18 delegates from Singapore. This came a year after the three parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding to use and further develop paperless documentation for air cargo between Amsterdam Airport Schipol and Changi Airport.

During the programme, CAAS, CAG, Dutch Customs, Air Cargo Netherlands and Amsterdam Connecting Trade exchanged views on ways to accelerate the take-up and reaping the benefits of e-freight. The delegates also visited various locations around Schipol Airport to see e-freight in action.

Commenting on Schipol's experiences with paperless airfreight handling, Saskia van Pelt, Director-Business Development, Schipol Cargo, said, "Shipments via e-freight through Schipol have almost quadrupled in a year, but we are still talking 10 per cent of total cargo traffic on e-freight ready trade lanes. We have made solid progress, but we still have a long way to go."

### **CONNECTED TO THE WHOLE OF ASEAN**

On 24 November, Changi Airport welcomed Lao Airlines from Vientiane, which is Changi's 11th new city link for 2011. For the new service, Lao Airlines will operate its brand-new A320 aircraft in a two-class configuration, with a total of 142 seats. With a thrice-weekly service between Singapore and Vientiane, Changi Airport is now connected via direct flights to all nine of Singapore's ASEAN neighbours.

This direct airline service is credited to strong bilateral ties between the two countries. Singapore is one of Laos' top 10 foreign investors, with investments in a variety of sectors from hospitality to manufacturing. Over the past five years, the number of travellers between Singapore and Laos has also seen steady growth. The establishment of Lao Airlines in Changi Airport is expected to further stimulate both business and leisure travel between the two countries.