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SINGAPORE AIRSHOW AVIATION LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2010 PLANS FOR AVIATION 2.0

The appeal for change was palpable for the 250 delegates who attended the second Singapore Airshow Aviation Leadership Summit (SAALS). Organised by the Singapore Airshow in conjunction with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), Singapore's Ministry of Transport (MOT) and the International Air Transport Association, the two-day summit modelled itself after the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, which is known for inviting industry experts, business leaders and politicians to discuss global issues.

Lee Yuen Hee, Chairman, SAALS Organising Committee and Deputy Secretary (International), MOT, said, "In conceptualising the Summit, we wanted a high level meeting of minds and a unique platform where senior stakeholders from both the government and industry would gather to discuss issues of strategic importance to the aviation industry."

This landmark meeting was a first in aviation history, enabling both private and public sectors to freely voice out on major issues. Aptly titled "Battling the Crisis, Shaping the Future", the summit addressed pressing concerns such as the industry's path to economic recovery, going carbon neutral and the future of aviation.

The closed-door event saw various strategies and solutions discussed, with the general consensus leaning towards a need to revamp the aviation model. Raymond Lim, Singapore's Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, termed the new framework Aviation 2.0, adding that the upgraded system will have the key characteristics of being nimble and integrated. "It is about leveraging on the know-how to create new and better intangibles to ensure that the aviation industry remains attractive and relevant to the changing needs of air travellers and businesses," said Lim.

The summit was a success, drawing candid responses and an open exchange of information among participants. Going forward, SAALS organisers are confident that subsequent summits will continue to pique the minds of delegates and raise pertinent topical issues for debate and discussion.