

ISSUE 2

SINGAPORE'S NEW AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH KENYA AND NEPAL BOOST CIVIL AVIATION BILATERAL COOPERATION

Singapore has further bolstered collaborative relationships with Kenya and Nepal, thanks to the Air Services Agreements (ASA) the nation recently signed with the two countries. These ASAs signify a big step in civil aviation bilateral cooperation between Singapore, Kenya and Nepal. The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) facilitated the engagement, from setting up air services consultations, handling negotiations for the exchange of traffic rights, to wrapping up the ASA deals.

The Singapore-Kenya ASA was signed earlier this year on 18 January. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, the Right Honourable Raila Odinga, were present to witness the signing.

Under the ASA, air carriers from Singapore and Kenya have the flexibility to operate any number of air services between and beyond both countries. Singapore Airlines Cargo currently operates a three-weekly freighter services to and beyond Kenya.

According to Raymond Lim, Singapore's Minister of Transport and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs, Singapore and Kenyan air carriers will now have the flexibility to plan their operations to capitalise on market opportunities in both countries through the ASA.

The ASA between Singapore and Nepal was signed on 2 February. Under the agreement, designated carriers from both countries are entitled to operate 28 weekly passenger services between them. Of that, 14 weekly passenger services can be operated via some intermediate points, as well as to a few beyond points in third countries. Carriers of the two countries are also entitled to operate 14 weekly cargo services. Similarly, half of these can be operated via any intermediate points and to any beyond points in third countries.