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Changi Airport crosses 65 million passenger mark in 2018

SINGAPORE, 29 January 2019 – Singapore Changi Airport registered a strong performance in 2018, handling a record 65.6 million passenger movements (+5.5%) for the year with 386,000 landings and take-offs (+3.4%). Airfreight throughput increased by 1.4% to reach 2.15 million tonnes for 2018.

December was once again the busiest month of the year^[1], recording 6.13 million passenger movements (+4.5%) and 33,400 (+1.4%) aircraft movements. Airfreight throughput dipped 3.8% to 182,000 tonnes. For the first time in a month, Changi Airport welcomed more than six million

passengers. The busiest day of the year was 21 December 2018 (the Friday before Christmas), with 221,155 passengers passing through Changi's terminals – also a new record for the airport.

In 2018, Europe, South Asia, the Americas and Africa recorded double digit growth. Among Changi's top 10 markets, India and Japan registered the strongest growth rising 12% and 10% respectively. This was followed by China and Vietnam which saw annual growth of 7%.

Changi Airport's top 10 routes^[2] remained unchanged although there were slight changes in the rankings. Bangkok and Denpasar (Bali) each moved up one spot to second and sixth position respectively. Six of Changi's top 20 routes grew by at least 5% -- Denpasar (Bali), London, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai and Sydney.

Growth was observed for airfreight throughput across all segments – exports, imports and transshipments. For the year, the top five markets for airfreight were China, Australia, Hong Kong, the United States and India.

New airlines and destinations

During the year, Changi Airport welcomed three passenger airlines – Guangxi Beibu Gulf Airlines, LOT Polish Airlines, and Shandong Airlines. Seven new passenger city links were also established, to China (Nanchang), Germany (Berlin), India (Guwahati, Pune, Vijayawada), Indonesia (Belitung), and Poland (Warsaw).

Traffic between Singapore and India, Changi's sixth largest market, rose to 4.76 million in 2018. Singapore is now linked to Northeast India via Guwahati, operated by Drukair Royal Bhutan Airlines. The connection to Pune opens up a direct connection between Singapore and the second largest city in Maharashtra State, one of Changi's top unserved points in India. The air link between Singapore and Amaravati's Vijaywada Airport was also a significant milestone, marking Singapore's partnership with Andhra Pradesh to build the new capital city of Amaravati in Southeast India.

Connectivity to Europe strengthened with non-stop links to Warsaw and

Berlin. Qantas reinstated its Singapore-London service, while Lufthansa resumed operations to Munich. Today, Changi Airport is directly connected to 19 cities in Europe, a 10-year high.

On the ultra-long-haul front, Singapore Airlines launched the world's longest flight to New York (Newark), as well as introduced non-stop services to Los Angeles. Traffic between Singapore and the continental United States increased 21% in 2018, with 74 weekly services to Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Seattle.

Strengthening partnerships

To pursue sustainable traffic growth across various passenger segments, Changi Airport Group (CAG) collaborated with travel industry partners through new initiatives and partnerships. The 'Changi Stopovers' programme, aimed at encouraging passengers travelling through Changi Airport to stop over in Singapore, was jointly launched in partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board. The programme provides attractive options for travellers to enjoy a stopover holiday in Singapore when they visit Southeast Asia or while on route to a long-haul destination. It also strengthens Changi Airport's position as a regional hub of choice, enhancing traffic for its airline partners.

CAG also embarked on a new initiative to work with travel agents to offer flight charter services to new destinations in China, such as to Guiyang and Zunyi. Charter services to other Chinese cities such as Yancheng, Yichang and Zhangjiajie are also being explored. Charter services are key to cultivate demand to new cities and pave the way for scheduled services. China is Changi's third largest market, with 15 airlines operating more than 370 weekly services to 36 city links.

[Gearing up for the future](#)

Mr Lim Ching Kiat, CAG's Managing Director, Air Hub Development, said, "2018 was another strong year for Changi Airport. We are pleased with the introduction of new city links, as well as the growth of long haul routes from Changi Airport, including the launch of the world's longest service between Singapore and New York. Non-stop services to the United States have now doubled to 40 per week, providing greater convenience to our passengers.

“Our newest terminal T4 completed its first year of operations, and served 8.3 million passengers in 2018. Later this year, Jewel Changi Airport will open its doors to the world. With aviation facilities, retail offerings and play attractions, Jewel will augment Changi Airport’s status as an air hub. Terminal 1’s expansion will also be completed, increasing the airport’s handling the capacity to 85 million passengers per annum.

“We expect 2019 to pose challenges include rising fuel prices and trade tensions. While these potential headwinds may impact the industry, demand for air travel in the Asia Pacific region is forecast to grow steadily. Together with our airport community and partners, we look forward to strengthening our connectivity and better serving our passengers’ needs.”

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Annex A – Passenger, cargo and aircraft movements statistics for 2018

Annex B – Top 10 Changi City Links in 2018

[\[1\]](#) The monthly breakdown for passenger, airfreight and aircraft movements for 2018 is in *Annex A*.

[\[2\]](#) See *Annex B* for the full list.

About Changi Airport Group

Changi Airport Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd (CAG) (www.changiairportgroup.com) was formed on 16 June 2009 and the corporatisation of Singapore Changi Airport (IATA: SIN, ICAO: WSSS) followed on 1 July 2009. As the company managing Changi Airport, CAG undertakes key functions focusing on airport operations and management, air hub development, commercial activities and airport emergency services. CAG also manages Seletar Airport (IATA: XSP, ICAO: WSSL) and through its subsidiary Changi Airports International, invests in and manages foreign airports.

Changi Airport is the world’s sixth busiest airport for international traffic. It served a record 65.6 million passengers from around the globe in 2018.

Changi Airport has 400 retail and service stores, as well as 140 F&B outlets. With over 100 airlines providing connectivity to 400 cities worldwide, Changi Airport handles about 7,400 flights every week, or about one every 80 seconds.