



September 2017: Passengers up 7% in Asia-Pacific and down -1% in Middle East

[Nov 27, 2017 – Hong Kong] In September 2017, Asia-Pacific airports reported growth of +7.3% while the Middle Eastern airports recorded a decline of -0.8% compared to the same period last year. For the year-to-date, Asia-Pacific and Middle East grew +7.3% and +5.6% respectively.

Robust domestic passenger travels continued to stimulate the Indian market with year-on-year growth consistently maintained at above 10% level. In September 2017, strong demands in both domestic and international passenger travels enabled Delhi (DEL) to register a growth of +11.3% from last year. Other top runners in the country include: Calcutta (CCU) +31.8% and Bangalore (BLR) +17%.

In China, the general pace of growth continued to ease from last year. In September 2017, passenger traffic volume was largely driven by domestic traffic growth in Hangzhou (HGH) +18.5% and Nanchang (KHN) +70.3%. Nanchang (KHN) has been experiencing significant growth since June 2017 with rapid addition in new routes and increased flight frequency. Guangzhou (CAN) +8.1% came in third in terms of volume growth for the month and continued to deliver solid increase contributed by both domestic and international passenger traffic.

In the Middle East, passenger traffic showed mixed results in September. Growth in passenger traffic softened at Dubai (DXB) due to the timing of religious holidays. Doha (DOH) -18.4% continued to be negatively impacted by Qatar's diplomatic crisis with a number of neighbouring states. Whereas Muscat (MCT) and Kuwait (KWI) recorded double-digit growth rates at +11.4% and +10.5% respectively.

For the first nine months in 2017, overall passenger traffic growth in the Asia-Pacific maintained strength while the pace of growth eased in the Middle East. Domestic travels in both India and China continued to be thriving but also showing signs of moderation. In the Middle East, airports showed divergent results year-to-date, impacted by a variety of external factors.

In terms of air freight, Asia-Pacific and Middle East grew +9.4% and +7.3% respectively in September. For the year-to-date, Asia-Pacific and Middle East grew +9.8% and +7.7% respectively.

In September 2017, exports continued to drive strong air freight growth in Asia-Pacific led by: Hong Kong (HKG) +9.1%, Shanghai Pudong (PVG) +12.3% and Seoul Incheon (ICN) +11.3%. In the Middle East, the pace of growth maintained strength, Dubai (DXB) grew by +5.8% and Doha (DOH) grew by +9.2%.

Overall, air freight delivered very strong results for the first nine months of 2017. Monthly growth in both Asia-Pacific and Middle East maintained consistently between 9 to 10% in the third quarter.

Among the top 10 freight airports in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East combined, half recorded double-digit growth for the year-to-date. The strong demand is expected to persist as the sector steps into the traditionally strong fourth quarter.

TABLE 1: Preliminary year-on-year traffic growth rates for Airports reporting highest traffic volume in the respective size category in September 2017¹

Top 3 airports by size category ²				
Passenger				Freight
> 40M	25M to 40M	15M to 25M	5M to 15M	
Beijing (PEK) +1.9%	Hangzhou (HGH) +18.5%	Bangalore (BLR) +17.0%	Kuwait (KWI) +10.5%	Hong Kong (HKG) +9.1%
Dubai (DXB) +1.7%	Melbourne (MEL) +2.2%	Sapporo (CTS) +3.3%	Muscat (MCT) +11.4%	Shanghai Pudong (PVG) +12.3%
Tokyo Haneda (HND) +3.4%	Bangkok Don Mueang (DMK) +9.6%	Brisbane (BNE) +1.6%	Nanchang (KHN) +70.3%	Seoul Incheon (ICN) +11.3%

Note :

1. ACI preliminary passenger and freight statistics are based on a significant sample of airports that provide regular monthly reports to ACI. They represent approximately 60% of total passenger traffic and 70% of total freight traffic worldwide. Commentary, tables and charts are based on preliminary data submitted by participating airports and are therefore subject to change.
2. Size categories refer to the annual passenger traffic (in the last 12 months)

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