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Singapore Changi Airport Celebrates As Its Passenger Volume Crosses 30 million Milestone

Singapore Changi Airport has two additional reasons to celebrate this festive season - not only has its passenger volume crossed the 30 million mark, it has also surpassed the previous record high of 29 million passengers set in 2002. The 30 million milestone was crossed when the passengers of a Singapore Airlines flight disembarked at Changi Airport at around 12 noon today.

Minister for Transport Mr Yeo Cheow Tong was at the airport to welcome the passengers. Speaking at the event, Mr Yeo described 2004 as a year of sterling growth. He said, "Passenger traffic for January to November this year is up some 4.5 per cent from the same period in 2002. In addition, Changi grew its city links rapidly. This year, nine new airlines started operating to Changi, and we gained 15 new city links."

Passenger traffic at Changi Airport has been growing steadily since the airport opened in 1981, crossing the 10 million mark in 1986 and the 20 million mark in 1994. The only exceptions were in 1998, 2001 and 2003, when passenger traffic registered declines due to the Asian Financial crisis, the September 11 incident and SARS, respectively.

For this year, Changi Airport's passenger volume had surpassed the 2003 full year figure by October 2004. November 2004, in particular, proved to be a bumper month, with 2.71 million air travellers using Changi Airport. In December 2004, passenger traffic in the first two weeks continued the strong growth trend, averaging 97,553 passengers a day, versus the daily average of 89,405 in first two weeks of December 2003.

The strong showing in air travel this year is due in part to the economic pick-up worldwide and in the region. The launch of operations at Changi Airport by nine airlines, four of which are budget carriers, and the attractive air ticket prices offered by both full service and budget airlines also boosted air travel demand.

Changi Airport is now connected to more than 170 cities around the world by 75 airlines and over 3,700 weekly scheduled flights.

To commemorate Changi Airport's breakthrough in traffic volume, CAAS gave away some 30,000 gifts to passengers at Changi Airport today.