

16 Jun 2006

Singapore Changi Airport Welcomes Shanghai Airlines

Singapore Changi Airport is poised to handle the fast growing air freight market between Singapore and China, as the airport further enhances its connectivity to China with a new airline, Shanghai Airlines. The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) welcomed the maiden landing of Shanghai Airlines at Changi Airport today at 1045 hours. Shanghai Airlines is the second Chinese carrier to operate scheduled all-cargo flights to Singapore, after Yangtze River Express Airlines, an all-cargo airline which joined the Changi family last November.

Despite being a newcomer to Changi Airport, Shanghai Airlines will offer the highest number of all-cargo flights between Singapore and Shanghai. The airline will be operating 16 weekly flights on this route.

Air freight tonnage carried between Singapore and China has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years. In 2005, total throughput was recorded at almost 130,000 tonnes, a healthy increase of 17% over the previous year. For the Singapore-Shanghai sector specifically, total throughput grew by a robust 20% in 2005, as compared to 2004. The strong growth continued into 2006 - cargo tonnage carried between Singapore and China in the first five months of 2006 reached 56,000 tonnes which is 16% higher than the same period a year ago.

"Shanghai Airlines' entry into the Singapore-China market occurs at a most opportune time, given the fast growing air freight market between our two countries and, it also provides shippers with an additional choice to move their cargo between our two countries. The impressive start of Shanghai Airlines' operations to Changi Airport will no doubt contribute even further to the growth of bilateral trade between Singapore and China," said MG(NS) Lim Kim Choon, Senior Deputy Director-General, CAAS.

Shanghai Airlines joins 12 other airlines at Changi Airport plying between Singapore and 19 cities in China. Together, they operate more than 400 weekly passenger and cargo flights between the two countries. With the addition of Shanghai Airlines, there are now 83 scheduled airlines in Changi Airport's network, operating about 4,100 weekly scheduled flights to 181 cities in 57 countries.