

25 Oct 2007

First A380 Passenger Flight Takes Off From Singapore Changi Airport

The first Airbus 380 (A380) passenger flight has taken off from Singapore Changi Airport. Singapore Airlines flight SQ 380 departed from Changi Airport's Terminal 2 today at 0800 hours for Sydney, Australia. The A380's return flight from Sydney will arrive at Changi Airport at 2215 hours on 26 October 2007.

"The A380's commencement of passenger flights marks a new milestone in aviation history," said Mr Lim Kim Choon, Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS). Mr Lim added, "Changi Airport is excited and proud to be the first airport in the world from which the A380 experience begins."

CAAS has been at the forefront of preparations for the A380's commencement of operations at Changi Airport. S\$68 million has been spent on airport and airfield modifications and additional airport emergency rescue equipment. Works undertaken include the installation of an additional fixed gangway and a third aerobridge arm at each of the 19 A380-compatible gates at Changi Airport. The third arm enables passengers to have direct access to the upper deck of the double-decker aircraft. On top of airport and airfield modifications, CAAS and airport agencies have conducted comprehensive tests to ensure Changi Airport is fully ready to support the superjumbo's operations.

In conjunction with the A380's commencement of passenger flights, CAAS has launched a series of events at Terminal 2's Departure / Transit Mall from 23 October to 5 November 2007. They include an exhibition marking the A380's milestones in Singapore and highlighting the various works undertaken at Changi Airport for the A380, as well as games and a contest for passengers to participate in.

Changi Airport was also the first airport outside Europe to receive the A380 when the aircraft arrived for airport compatibility verification tests in November 2005. The A380 has made four visits to Singapore prior to Singapore Airlines' first A380 passenger flight today.