

**4 Jan 2008**

## **Singapore Changi Airport Welcomes Mihin Lanka**

### *Singapore is the airline's second international destination in South East Asia*

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) held a ceremony today to officially welcome Mihin Lanka, an airline from Sri Lanka, to operate at Singapore Changi Airport.

Mihin Lanka is the second international carrier from Sri Lanka to mount flights to Singapore. The state-owned airline first began operating six weekly flights between Singapore and Colombo on 24 September 2007 with Airbus 321 aircraft.

At the welcome ceremony, CAAS' Director-General and CEO, Mr Lim Kim Choon said, "The launch of Mihin Lanka's services comes at an opportune time as passenger traffic between Singapore and Sri Lanka has grown by 30% over the past 4 years to reach 275,000 movements for the first 11 months of 2007. Between January and November 2007, there were over 70,000 visitor arrivals from Sri Lanka, representing a robust 10% growth year-on-year."

Mr Lim further expressed confidence that the visitor arrivals from Sri Lanka to Singapore would grow further in the coming years, boosted by new tourism developments in Singapore such as the Singapore Flyer, Formula 1 Grand Prix and the Integrated Resorts.

Mihin Lanka is the fourth airline to operate flight services between Colombo and Singapore. The other three airlines are Singapore Airlines, Sri Lankan Airlines and Emirates. This brings the number of weekly passenger flights on the route to a total of 42.

Changi Airport is currently served by 81 scheduled airlines, operating over 4,300 weekly scheduled flights to 189 cities in 60 countries.