

# Media Release

## **Changi Airport Group recognises top airline partners for contributions to the Singapore air hub**

*Xiamen Airlines named Partner of the Year at Changi Airline Awards 2016*

**SINGAPORE, 28 April 2016** – Changi Airport Group (CAG) celebrated a year of close partnerships and joint successes with its top airline partners today, at the 2016 Changi Airline Awards. At the annual event, which is into its 11<sup>th</sup> year, 25 awards were presented across six categories to airlines that have contributed most significantly to the growth of the Singapore air hub in 2015.

These included *Top Airlines By Passenger Carriage and Cargo Carriage, Top Airlines By Absolute Growth in Passenger Carriage, Top Airlines by Absolute Cargo Growth, Best Airline Marketing*, and the *Partner of the Year* award. A list of all the award winners can be found in Annex A.

### ***Partner of the Year***

The overall *Partner of the Year* award was presented to Xiamen Airlines, for its substantial contribution to the development of Changi Airport. Among Chinese carriers operating at Changi, Xiamen Airlines is the third largest in terms of passenger carriage and the one with the widest Singapore-China network, through its connectivity to seven Chinese cities<sup>1</sup>.

In 2015, the airline deepened its collaboration with CAG through the inking of a three-year Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) to jointly grow traffic and connectivity between Singapore and China, as well as to pursue commercial collaborations. On the back of this MoC, Xiamen Airlines added its fourth daily service (Xi'an-Hangzhou-Singapore) in March 2015, doubling the capacity on the Singapore-Hangzhou route. The carrier also

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<sup>1</sup> Dalian, Fuzhou, Hangzhou, Tianjin, Xi'an, Xiamen, Zhengzhou  
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partnered CAG in a series of market development initiatives, such as travel trade seminars in Xi'an, Zhengzhou and Johor Bahru to help to grow travel demand.

In 2015, Xiamen Airlines carried more than 370,000 passengers to and from Changi, an outstanding 30% increase year-on-year. Over the years, it has been CAG's steadfast partner in growing the China market, registering a compounded annual growth rate of 11% in passenger traffic since 2011. Please refer to Annex B for more information on the *Partner of the Year* award.

Xiamen Airlines' Chairman and CEO, Mr Che Shanglun, said, "Singapore has always been a strategic point in Xiamen Airlines' Southeast Asian network. Changi Airport, being one of the world's best airports, is also one of Xiamen Airlines' closest partners. We look forward to continuing our strong collaboration with CAG to further the aviation development between Singapore and China, and to continue to provide high quality services to our passengers across the world. "

### ***Celebrating growth and partnerships***

In terms of passenger carriage, the top five airlines operating at Changi Airport in 2015 were Singapore Airlines, Tigerair, SilkAir, Jetstar Asia and, AirAsia. On the cargo front, Singapore Airlines Cargo continued to top the list of carriers with highest cargo volume, with FedEx Express, Cathay Pacific, China Airlines and Air Hong Kong following. New award winners, Air France and Tri-MG Intra-Asia Airlines were among the strongest growing airlines for passenger and cargo carriage respectively.

2015 was a year of resilience and recovery for Changi Airport, which saw a turnaround in passenger traffic in the second half of the year, following a weaker showing of flat growth in the first half. Led by the recovery in intra-Asian travel, Changi welcomed eight new scheduled airlines and 10 new city links – capping the year with a commendable passenger traffic growth of 2.5% to 55.4 million passengers, an all-time high.

CAG's CEO, Mr Lee Seow Hiang, said, "The growth momentum has extended into 2016. We achieved growth of 10% in the first quarter of this year, on the back of strong travel

demand across all our major markets. Among Changi's top five country markets, traffic to and from China, Malaysia and Thailand all enjoyed double-digit growth.

“In the coming months, we look forward to the launch of Singapore Airlines' new services to Dusseldorf, Canberra and Wellington. We are also excited to welcome in June, United Airlines' non-stop service between Singapore and San Francisco. An improvement in global economic activity, stable oil prices and the delivery of longer range aircraft will present new growth opportunities for the industry.”

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Annex A – List of Changi Airline Awards 2016 Recipients

Annex B - Citation for Partner of the Year Award

### ***About Changi Airport Group***

Changi Airport Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd (CAG) ([www.changiairportgroup.com](http://www.changiairportgroup.com)) was formed on 16 June 2009 and the corporatisation of Singapore Changi Airport (IATA: SIN, ICAO: WSSS) followed on 1 July 2009. As the company managing Changi Airport, CAG undertakes key functions focusing on airport operations and management, air hub development, commercial activities and airport emergency services. CAG also manages Seletar Airport (IATA: XSP, ICAO: WSSL) and through its subsidiary Changi Airports International, invests in and manages foreign airports.

Changi Airport is the world's sixth busiest airport for international traffic. It served a record 54.1 million passengers from around the globe in 2015. More than 350 retail stores and 140 F&B outlets are situated across three terminals to cater to passengers and visitors. With over 100 airlines providing connectivity to 330 cities worldwide, Changi Airport handles about 6,800 flights every week, or about one every 90 seconds.

## Annex A

### Changi Airline Awards 2016 Recipients

#### 1) Partner of the Year

Xiamen Airlines

#### 2) Top 5 Airlines by Passenger Carriage

*(In order of merit, based on passenger carriage in 2015)*

1. Singapore Airlines
2. Tigerair
3. SilkAir
4. Jetstar Asia
5. AirAsia

#### 3) Top 5 Airlines by Cargo Carriage

*(In order of merit, based on cargo carriage in 2015)*

1. Singapore Airlines Cargo
2. FedEx Express
3. Cathay Pacific
4. China Airlines
5. Air Hong Kong

#### 4) Top Airline by Absolute Growth in Passenger Carriage (By Region)

*(Based on the airline's home region, by absolute passenger growth in 2015)*

Region	Airline
Americas	United Airlines
Europe	Air France
Middle East & Africa	Emirates
Northeast Asia	All Nippon Airways
Singapore	SilkAir
South Asia	Air India
Southeast Asia	Thai Airways
Southwest Pacific	Qantas

#### 5) Top 5 Airlines by Absolute Cargo Growth

*(In order of merit, by absolute cargo growth in 2015)*

1. Singapore Airlines Cargo
2. All Nippon Airways
3. Scoot
4. Tri-MG Intra Asia Airlines
5. Cargolux Airlines

#### 6) Best Airline Marketing

*(Voted by guests at Changi Airline Awards event)*

Winner: All Nippon Airways



## Annex B

### Changi Airline Awards 2016

#### *Partner of the Year*

The *Partner of the Year* award, launched in 2010, gives special recognition to a key partner who has collaborated with CAG over the past few years and made a substantial contribution to the growth and development of Changi Airport as an air hub.

This year, the *Partner of the Year* award goes to **Xiamen Airlines** for its strong partnership with CAG in strengthening Singapore's air hub status.

In 2015, Xiamen Airlines and CAG signed a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) to jointly:-

- (i) grow traffic and connectivity between Singapore and China;
- (ii) grow transfer traffic of Xiamen Airlines at Changi Airport; and
- (iii) pursue commercial collaborations

On the back of this MoC, Xiamen Airlines added its fourth daily service (Xi'an-Hangzhou-Singapore vv) in March 2015, doubling the capacity on the Singapore-Hangzhou route. This expanded the airline's connectivity to China to seven points<sup>2</sup> – giving Xiamen Airlines the widest Singapore-China network amongst Chinese carriers operating at Changi Airport.

In addition, Xiamen Airlines has been active in collaborating with CAG in various aspects of its operations. To promote travel to and via Singapore, CAG and Xiamen Airlines jointly organised travel trade seminars in Xi'an, Zhengzhou and Johor Bahru, to raise awareness of the airline's destinations to and from Singapore. During the year, joint retail campaigns, such as the Changi Shopping Passport Programme, were also rolled out by CAG in partnership with the airline, which offered attractive shopping promotions and raised awareness of Changi's retail facilities amongst its passengers.

In 2015, Xiamen Airlines carried more than 370,000 passengers between Singapore and China, registering a strong 30% growth year-on-year. Xiamen Airlines is the third largest Chinese carrier operating at Changi Airport in terms of passenger traffic, contributing approximately 8% to the segment's traffic. Over the years, the airline has been a steadfast partner of CAG, having achieved a healthy compounded annual growth rate of 11% in passenger traffic at Changi Airport over the past five years.

<sup>2</sup> Dalian, Fuzhou, Hangzhou, Tianjin, Xi'an, Xiamen, Zhengzhou