HONG KONG AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Hong Kong's Airline Pilots Support Construction of Third Runway at HKIA

The Hong Kong Airline Pilots Association (HKALPA) is a professional, non-commercial association with the mandate to promote flight safety, professionalism and the interests of its members. HKALPA is the representative body for airline pilots in professional and technical matters within Hong Kong and internationally through our membership of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA). HKALPA conditionally supports the construction of a third runway at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), and we commit our continued cooperation in the process to ensure that flight safety and environmental issues are given high priority.

Asia is forecast to be the world's fastest growing aviation market and is set to eventually become the world's largest. Hong Kong's future position can only be realized through investment in additional infrastructure to support this magnitude of sustainable growth. As the existing runway configuration approaches maximum capacity, aircraft are being forced to fly extended arrival and departure procedures, including 'race-track' holding patterns, that result in increased fuel burn and consequential increases in carbon emissions. HKIA is already congested at peak times, and more flights are operating during the late night/early morning hours, worsening noise pollution. Only by constructing a third runway can HKIA realistically increase capacity to meet future needs.

HKALPA cautions, however, that any additional runway and corresponding infrastructure requires rationalization of the airspace surrounding HKIA. Hong Kong must coordinate with Mainland China to ease excessive airspace restrictions for flights into and over Mainland China before the potential capacity increase from construction of a third runway can actually be realized. HKALPA therefore believes the rationalization of the Hong Kong airspace must be given equal priority to the addition of a third runway to effectively increase capacity at HKIA.

HKALPA further recognizes that Hong Kong's economic success must be balanced against the environmental challenges and that all development should be sustainable. With rationalization of the surrounding airspace, HKIA will be able to adopt new arrival and departure procedures that will enable more fuel-efficient and noise mitigating flight paths to be constructed while ensuring flight safety. These new procedures can be implemented using satellite-based technologies that alleviate the need to construct additional ground-based navigation facilities. Efficient approach strategies that minimise noise impact as well as reducing emissions, however, still require the airfield to have the capacity to accommodate the volume of air traffic. Without a third runway, air traffic in Hong Kong airspace will become less and less efficient, costing both the industry and the environment.

The aviation industry itself has made huge efforts in advancing technology in both airframe and engine manufacture, contributing to significant improvements in fuel efficiency, noise levels and emission reduction. Internationally, policies are currently being drawn up for the use of sustainable alternative fuels, and the aviation industry will set CO2 emission standards for aircraft by 2013 – the first for any industry. With the right technologies and planning, it is possible to build the extra capacity at HKIA with negligible growth in noise and emission levels.

HKALPA believes that the construction of the third runway, along with rationalization of the Hong Kong airspace, will enhance both flight safety and efficiency benefiting the traveling public, industry and the environment. HKALPA, in partnership with the Civil Aviation Department and the

Airport Authority will ensure HKIA remains one of the safest and most efficient airports in the world.

Contact::

Captain Darryl Soligo
President, HKALPA
(email: darryl.soligo@hkalpa.org)

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