

## NEWS RELEASE

### **AIR MAURITIUS CHAIRMAN ADDRESSES SINGAPORE AIR SHOW LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2008**



*Sanjay Bhuckory, Air Mauritius Chairman and IATA Governor, Giovanni Bisignani, IATA Director General and CEO, and Chew Choon Seng, CEO of Singapore Airlines*

Air Mauritius Chairman and IATA Governor, Sanjay Bhuckory, addressed the Singapore Air Show Leadership Summit in Singapore on 18th February 2008. Singapore Mentor Minister Lee Kuan Yew was the Chief Guest Speaker of the Summit, which was attended by some 200 distinguished personalities of the aviation industry worldwide.

To a query from the Air Mauritius Chairman, which was reported in the Singaporean press, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew aired the view that, far from being saturated, the aviation sector still has a long way to go.



*The Chairman of Air Mauritius with Singapore Minister Mentor, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew*

The Opening Speech was delivered by Singapore Minister for Transport, Mr. Raymond Lim. The President of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Mr. Roberto K González, and IATA Director-General & CEO, Mr. Giovanni Bisignani, respectively made the Keynote Addresses.

The Session, in which the Mr. Bhuckory took part, discussed about 'Opportunities for the Asian Aviation Industry'. The other panelists were Mr. Ashok Chawla, Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation of India, Brian Pearce, Chief Economist of IATA, and Mr. Kim Choon, Director General & CEO of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

The debates centred on the emerging Asian market, which is set to become one of the largest in the world, with over a third of the world's traffic passing to, from or within Asia, with China and India leading this growth.



Mr. Sanjay Bhuckory explained how Air Mauritius was planning to tap on this growth. Operations are due to Bangalore by the end of April 2008, and Air Mauritius is seriously contemplating flying to Shanghai, initially on a code share basis with Malaysian Airlines. Furthermore, Air Mauritius' brand new A330 has been deployed to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

The Air Mauritius Chairman made a comparative analysis between the liberalization process in Asia and the one in Africa, as well as the growth potential of passenger and cargo traffic between the two blocs. In this respect, he explained that both Mauritius and Air Mauritius stand to gain, by taking the lead in becoming the vital link between Asia with Africa. Our airport infrastructure, he added, would soon be expanded and modernised to cope with the growth in traffic.

Mr. Bhuckory was very optimistic about Air Mauritius' prospects of capitalizing on Asia's growth. He felt that, whilst consolidating its core business with Asia, the Mauritian national carrier would concurrently bridge the gap between Asia and Africa.

"The interaction with our aviation partners at the Leadership Summit has been very fruitful," concluded the Air Mauritius Chairman: "It will no doubt catalyse our future business prospects in Asia."

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*Air Mauritius is the national carrier of the Republic of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. Created in 1967, it currently operates a fleet of five A340-300, two A340-300E, two A319-100, one A330-200 and two ATR72-500. Air Mauritius presently flies to twenty six destinations in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and the Indian Ocean.*

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