

31 Aug 2006

Cebu Pacific Commences Daily Air Services At Singapore's Budget Terminal

Singapore's Budget Terminal (BT) welcomed the maiden flight of its second airline tenant, Cebu Pacific (CEB), from Manila, Philippines at 2355 hours today. CEB, a Philippines-based low cost carrier, is the first foreign carrier to operate from the BT. CEB joins Tiger Airways, which commenced operations at the terminal on 26 March 2006.

A welcome contingent comprising Philippines' Ambassador to Singapore, Her Excellency Ambassador Belen Anota, and officials from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) greeted the crew and passengers onboard the inaugural flight 5J 803. Mr Rene Roulo De Los Reyes, Director, Philippines Bureau of International Tourism, was among the VIPs who flew in specially to celebrate the occasion.

For a start, CEB will operate a daily flight between Singapore and Manila. The daily flight leaves Manila at 2030hrs to arrive in Singapore at 2355hrs. The flight out of Singapore departs at 0040hrs and arrives in Manila at 0405hrs.

Mr Ho Beng Huat, CAAS' Deputy Director-General of Civil Aviation, who was at the BT to welcome CEB's maiden flight said, "We are very happy to welcome Cebu Pacific as the second carrier to operate out of Singapore's Budget Terminal. The terminal's operating model of 'no frills' efficiency and low cost operations will serve very well Cebu Pacific's 'low fare, great value' business model." Mr Ho continued, "Passenger traffic between the Philippines and Singapore has been growing strongly. Last year, passenger traffic was 994,000, up 19% over 2004. For the first seven months of this year, traffic increased by a further 24%. We are confident that Cebu Pacific's new flights will encourage even greater people flows between the Philippines and Singapore. Travellers will also welcome this additional travel option in the market."

With CEB coming onboard, the Budget Terminal is today linked to 15 cities namely Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Clark, Darwin, Guangzhou, Haikou, Hanoi, Hat Yai, Ho Chi Minh, Krabi, Macau, Manila, Padang, Phuket and Shenzhen. The number of weekly flights at the Budget Terminal has also increased by about 50 per cent from 124 in March 2006 to 188 today.