

Aviation Leadership Summit aims to become "Davos" of aviation sector

By Satish Cheney, Channel NewsAsia | Posted: 26 January 2010 18:29 hrs

SINGAPORE: Aiming to be the "Davos" of the aviation industry. The Aviation Leadership Summit and other related forums will see some 1,000 delegates including more than a dozen ministers coming here as part of the Singapore Airshow.

Behind all the aerial acrobatics and power of jet engines, something is still not right with the aviation sector and Singapore hopes its aviation summit next week will be the catalyst for a full take-off.

Jimmy Lau, managing director, Singapore Airshow & Events, said: "There's nowhere in the world there's a platform such as this where a minister can meet up with an airline operator to talk about challenges and hopefully open new pathways towards liberalisation of the industry."

The pathway has been dismal over the last 10 years, with airlines losing an average of US\$5 billion a year. And although the sector has improved slightly, a new shift is needed, something which the summit is aiming for.

Sop Poh Theen, director, Air Transport Division, Singapore Transport Ministry, said: "The aviation industry is a highly regulated industry. In order to achieve real and significant changes, you really need the government officials, regulators and the industry to work very closely together.

"We have some good news about numbers picking up at Changi Airport, for instance. In December, we had healthy figures. But there's a deeper structural problem that the industry has been grappling with."

Besides the business aspects, discussions will also focus on environmental issues. The aviation industry is committed to a 50 per cent absolute reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

A special highlight of green initiatives will also be showcased at the Singapore Airshow.

Other forums such as the Asia Pacific Security Conference and discussions on aerospace technology will also take place. - CNA/vm



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Aviation Industry

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