

Airshow kicks off with a bang

Over 250 delegates including top government officials and airline executives gathered to chart the way forward for the industry, reports **VEN SREENIVASAN**

THE Singapore Airshow 2010 kicked off with three major conferences yesterday – with the marquee event alone drawing 250 delegates ranging from top government officials to airline executives. Addressing the delegates before the panel discussions at the Aviation Leadership Summit, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Raymond Lim said the civil aviation regime that was born out of the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation was “incongruent” with the sweeping changes that had taken place since then.

Using information technology nomenclature, Mr Lim said the industry had to move on from its Aviation 1.0 mode, which dealt with inter-connected architecture of airlines, airports, air traffic rights and air navigation services, to Aviation 2.0 mode, where key characteristics would be nimbleness and integration.

“In the new Aviation 2.0, the focus will be on the enhancement of software – that is, leveraging on the know-how to create new and

better intangibles in order to ensure that aviation remains attractive and relevant to the changing needs.”

A key element of this is Open Aviation Agreements and Open Skies Agreements, and in his speech, Mr Lim said the Asia-Pacific region has made advancements on both fronts.

“Two multilateral agreements liberalising freighter and passenger air services among Asean countries have recently come into force,” he said, during his speech at Swissotel The Stamford that was themed “Batting the Crisis, Shaping the Future”.

A third Multilateral Agreement which will expand on the earlier agreements to fully liberalise passenger air services within Asean, is expected to be signed this year.

For the first time, Asean is also in negotiation with China to establish a liberal air services regime between China and all the Asean countries collectively, and this is expected to be concluded this year.”

Also addressing the delegates prior to the start of panel discussions was Roberto Kobch Gonzalez, president of the International Civil



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Mr Lim: *The Minister for Transport said that there is a need to leverage 'on the know-how to create new and better intangibles in order to ensure that aviation remains attractive and relevant to the changing needs'.*

Aviation Organisation, who recognised the need for reform to the global aviation regime.

Giovanni Bisignani, director-general of the International Air Transport Association, told delegates that the global air transport industry would triple in size when traffic in the Asia-Pacific reached that of the United States.

But Asia-Pacific has to take more responsibility for charting the course of the industry,

be it in environmental issues and emissions, new technologies, aviation security, or liberalisation.

Two other major conferences were also held yesterday at the same time.

The Asia Pacific Security Conference was graced by Chiang Chie Foo, Prime Minister's Office Permanent Secretary (Defence), while the New Challenges in Aerospace Technology

& Maintenance Conference had Tan Kim Siew, Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary (Defence and development) as its guest of honour.

Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean graced the opening ceremony and welcome reception for the Singapore Airshow yesterday night.

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