## Media Release



### A record 51 million passengers for Changi Airport in 2012

Growth supported by strong air travel demand within Asia-Pacific, healthy Europe traffic

**SINGAPORE, 31 January 2013** – Singapore Changi Airport experienced its busiest month ever last month to cross the 50-million passenger movements mark for the first time in the airport's 31-year history. Passenger traffic for the year totalled 51.2 million, increasing by 10.0% over the whole of 2011. Flight movements grew 7.6% to 324,700 while cargo volumes declined 3.2% to 1.81 million tonnes, suppressed by uncertainties in the global economy.

For December 2012, Changi Airport registered 4.92 million passenger movements, a growth of 8.6% year-on-year. Changi's daily record was broken on 22 December 2012, the Saturday before Christmas Day, with 180,400 passengers passing through during the 24 hours.

There were 29,000 landings and take-offs last month, 4.7% more than a year ago. The airport ended the year by handling 152,900 tonnes of airfreight in December, 8.2% less than a year before. As at 1 January 2013, Changi Airport handles more than 6,500 weekly scheduled flights with 110 airlines connecting Singapore to 240 cities in 60 countries around the world.

Changi Airport's full year passenger, cargo and aircraft movements statistics are provided in Annex A and are also available at

http://www.changiairportgroup.com/cag/html/the-group/air\_traffic\_statistics.html

#### European traffic robust despite downturn

Despite weak market conditions in the Eurozone, there was encouraging improvement in demand for travel to and from Europe. In 2012, passenger traffic between Singapore and Europe grew 7.5%. Closer to home, Changi continued to experience strong growth in the

South Asia (12.4%), Northeast Asia (9.9%), Southeast Asia (9.7%) and Southwest Pacific (9.4%) regions, accentuating its position as a key air hub in Asia-Pacific.

In terms of Changi's busiest routes, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Manila occupied the top five positions in 2012 (See Annex B for list). Within the top 10, Bangkok and Tokyo saw robust increases of more than 10%, as traffic recovered following the floods in Thailand and the earthquake in Japan in 2011.

Changi Airport also enjoyed positive growth to and from gateway hubs. Beijing, Frankfurt and Guangzhou registered the strongest percentage increase in passenger traffic to and from Singapore, among sectors with at least half a million passengers.

Besides increasing demand on traditional gateway routes, Changi Airport's connectivity to secondary cities was also enhanced during the year – Australia's Gold Coast, Paro in Bhutan, Taiyuan in China, Visakhapatnam in India, Padang in Indonesia, Kota Bahru in Malaysia and Iloilo in the Philippines were additions to Changi's global network of city links. During the year, non-stop services were also launched to the Chinese cities Tianjin and Wuhan. As at 1 January 2013, Changi Airport is connected to 25 cities in China.

In 2012, Changi Airport welcomed five new carriers. Singapore-based Scoot commenced operations at Changi, providing travellers with more choice with its low cost medium haul offerings to destinations in Australia, China, Japan and Taiwan. Other airlines that started services at Changi included Bhutan flag-carrier Drukair, AirAsia Philippines, Shenzhen Airlines and all-cargo carrier Yangtze River Express.

#### Economic uncertainty softens airfreight demand

On the cargo front, economic uncertainty in many parts of the world dampened airfreight volumes at Changi Airport. Shipments to and from China and the United States, Changi's top cargo markets, declined after positive growth in 2011.

Despite the downward pressure on cargo volumes, niche segments such as perishables, live animals and pharmaceuticals grew during the year. Notably, Changi also achieved growth in cargo tonnage to and from Africa and the Oceania region.

During the year, CAG worked with its partners to enhance infrastructure and offerings at the Changi Airfreight Centre. It welcomed the opening of the FedEx Express South Pacific Regional Hub, a facility that consolidates FedEx's air, ground and customs clearance operations within Changi's Air Cargo Express Hub.

#### 30 Best Airport awards in 2012

Changi Airport continued to be viewed favourably among travellers and the industry. Changi received 30 awards during the year including *Business Traveller's* Best Airport in the World accolade for the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive time. The cargo community also honoured Changi with the Airport of the Year award at the inaugural Payload Asia Awards. The full list of accolades achieved in 2012 is in Annex C.

CAG's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Lee Seow Hiang, said, "2012 was indeed a good year for us. In spite of the economic challenges faced by the aviation industry, we stayed nimble and worked extremely closely with our partners. We introduced initiatives such as the Changi Transit Programme and *Changi Connects* to enhance Changi's value proposition as a transfer hub. We enjoyed strong growth in transfer traffic in 2012 and will be looking to sustain our market share with these new initiatives.

"For our millions of passengers, CAG remains committed to improving the Changi Experience so that they and airport visitors alike continue to discover delightful moments while at Changi. This commitment will drive our development plans for the new Terminal 4, construction of which will begin this year.

"In the near term, Changi Airport's performance will depend largely on how quickly markets recover from the slowdown. But we are confident that CAG's strong partnership with our stakeholders will see Changi through the challenges that lie ahead."

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#### **Attached**

Annex A – Passenger, cargo and aircraft movements statistics for 2012

Annex B – Top 10 Changi City Links in 2012

Annex C – Changi Airport's Awards in 2012

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#### About Changi Airport Group

Changi Airport Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd (CAG) (www.changiairportgroup.com) was formed on 16 June 2009 and the corporatisation of Singapore Changi Airport followed on 1 July 2009. As the company managing Changi Airport, CAG undertakes key functions focusing on airport operations and management, air hub development, commercial activities and airport emergency services. Through its subsidiary Changi Airports International, the Group invests in and manages foreign airports to spread the success of Changi Airport internationally.

Changi Airport (www.changiairport.com) is the world's most awarded airport having garnered more than 400 accolades since it opened in 1981. To serve passengers and visitors from the world over, there are over 330 retail stores and 120 F&B outlets across the airport's three terminals. Changi handled more than 50 million passenger movements in 2012, an annual record. Today, it serves some 110 airlines flying to over 240 cities in about 60 countries and territories worldwide. A flight takes off or lands at Changi roughly once every 100 seconds.

Annex A

Passenger, airfreight and aircraft movement statistics for 2012

Month	Passenger traffic		Airfreight movements		Aircraft movements	
	Number	Change %	Tonnes	Change %	Number	Change %
January	4,244,834	12.1	136,843	(7.1)	27,584	14.9
February	3,770,270	11.2	143,903	12.4	24,903	13.1
March	4,277,559	15.3	163,170	(1.8)	26,981	10.6
April	4,206,420	12.7	148,243	(4.9)	26,410	8.8
May	4,089,894	8.4	152,884	(2.8)	26,990	8.0
June	4,402,693	9.7	153,330	0.1	26,662	6.4
July	4,360,693	4.5	152,853	(4.5)	27,093	4.6
August	4,276,912	10.9	146,384	(4.4)	27,381	6.5
September	4,002,344	4.8	153,704	(0.4)	26,526	4.0
October	4,268,532	10.0	149,989	(8.0)	27,641	5.2
November	4,365,456	12.2	152,054	(5.1)	27,593	6.4
December	4,916,197	8.6	152,868	(8.2)	28,958	4.7
Total	51,181,804	10.0	1,806,225	(3.2)	324,722	7.6

### Annex B

# Top 10 Changi City Links in 2012\*

2012	<u>2011</u>	
1	1	Jakarta, Indonesia
2	2	Hong Kong, S.A.R.
3	4	Bangkok, Thailand
4	3	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
5	5	Manila, Philippines
6	6	Tokyo, Japan⁺
7	7	London, United Kingdom
8	8	Denpasar (Bali), Indonesia
9	10	Sydney, Australia
10	9	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

<sup>\*</sup> By passenger traffic + Includes Narita and Haneda traffic

## Annex C

## Changi Airport's Awards in 2012

S/N	Award	Publication/ Organisation		
1)	World's Leading Airport	World Travel Awards		
2)	Deficiency - Free	International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA)		
3)	Top Worldwide Airport	Wanderlust		
4)	Best Airport in Asia Pacific	DestinAsian		
5)	Best Airport by Size (over 40mil)	Airport Council International		
6)	Best Airport (World)	Travel + Leisure India and South Asia		
7)	Airport of the Year	Air Transport News		
8)	Best Airport in the World	Ultratravel Magazine		
9)	Best Airport in the World	Business Traveller Middle East		
10)	Best International Airport	TravelWeekly China		
11)	Airport Authority in Asia / Pacific with the most supportive approach to Travel Retail	Duty Free News International & Travel Retailer International		
12)	Best Business Airport	Business Traveller Germany		
13)	Best Airport - Asia	Cargonews Asia		
14)	Best Green Service Provider - Airport	Cargonews Asia		
15)	Best Airport in the World	Conde Nast Traveller (UK)		
16)	Best Airport in the World	Business Traveller UK		
17)	Best Airport in the World	Business Traveller (Asia Pacific)		
18)	Best International Airport	Travelmedia.ie		
19)	Best Airport Worldwide	Smart Travel Asia		
20)	Airport of the Year	Payload Asia		
21)	Travel Hall of Fame - Airport	Travel Trade Gazette (Asia)		
22)	Best Airport Dining	Global Traveler		
23)	Asia's Leading Airport	World Travel Awards		
24)	Best Airport in the World	Premier Traveler		
25)	Best Airport in the World	Business Traveler US		
26)	Best Airport in the World	Business Traveller China		
27)	Long Haul Airport of the Year	Selling Long Haul		
28)	Best Airport	Conde Nast Traveller India		

29)	Best Foreign Airport	Conde Nast Traveller Russia
30)	World's Leading Airport	World Travel Awards