ICAO, European Union and South East Asia working together for cheaper, safer and more sustainable aviation

Bangkok, Thailand, 12 September 2018: Cheaper, safer and more environmentally sustainable aviation with less delays will be enabled by the ASEAN Single Aviation Market and Seamless ASEAN Sky. Challenges and opportunities were discussed at the first ICAO-EASA forum on Civil Aviation in South East Asia.

Patrick Ky, Executive Director of EASA, said “Development of the Seamless ASEAN Sky together with the ASEAN Single Aviation Market is a must. It will soon become irrelevant how many passengers the airlines carry, aircraft are bought or freedoms of the air are agreed – if the air traffic management system cannot handle the demand, the only thing that is created is delays.”

Thailand’s Minister of Transport Arkhom Termpittayapaisith added "Thailand supports the ASEAN Single Aviation Market and is willing to implement all ASEAN open skies agreements in order to realize the liberalization of air freight and passengers services and pave the way for greater regional integration of air transport services. Those are key priorities in addition to the alignment with the international standards on safety, security and facilitation of air transport."
“Besides the forecast growth here, many South East Asia governments will be confronted by a rapidly evolving sectoral environment in terms of technologies, operations, and business models,” commented ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu. “But as operations here continue to grow, and States continue to prosper from that growth, it is imperative that we continue to work continuously and cooperatively toward our shared objectives.”

Right to left: H.E. Ministry Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport, Thailand; Dr Fang Liu, Secretary General, ICAO; Steve Creamer, Director of Air Navigation Bureau, ICAO; Arun Mishra, Regional Director, ICAO; Patrick Ky, Executive Director, EASA; Paolo Zingale, Head of FPI, EU delegation to Thailand.

Travel to, from, and within South East Asia is projected to grow at an average 6.6% annually over the next 20 years as passenger demand is stimulated by low cost carriers with expanding routes. The civil aviation authorities of South East Asia are facing increased air traffic despite continued major infrastructure limitations, leading to enhanced requirements for safety and the need to oversee and efficiently operate aviation facilities and services.

The ASEAN Single Aviation Market and Seamless ASEAN Sky therefore bring both opportunities and challenges – for example the region’s airports and air traffic management (ATM) systems need to cope with the ensuing traffic growth.

Since regional cooperation is essential, both ICAO and EASA implement a number of aviation safety programmes, allowing for the integration and harmonisation of rules and standards in safety, air traffic management, and climate change reduction from airline emissions.

The forum also discussed climate change, which has prompted ICAO to advance environmental standards for civil aviation without disrupting traffic growth, and the advanced digitalisation of aviation data to raise efficiency and safety whilst also enhancing commercial value. Other critical
issues were also debated, such as cybercrime which is also extending to civil aviation and threatens to disrupt communications, and other critical elements of airlines and ATM. Data mining and analysis, shared cyber-security, and other counter measures to cyber threats are however building resilience to this.

The forum concluded with a wide range of recommendations for further development of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, Seamless ASEAN Sky and other thematic challenges in civil aviation. These recommendations can then be considered by the South East Asian states, their partners and the aviation cooperation programmes in the region.

**Aviation Cooperation Programmes in South East Asia**

ICAO implements the COSCAP-SEA programme, which supports the South East Asian authorities with advisory and training assistance in civil aviation, mainly focused on achieving a high level of aviation safety and raising the Effective Implementation of ICAO SARPs.

EASA implements the ARISE Plus Civil Aviation project, which supports ASEAN integration in line with the [ASEAN ATM Master Plan](#).

EASA also implements the EU-South East Asia Aviation Partnership Project, which enhances cooperation with major regional stakeholders in safety, ATM and [climate change action](#).

**About the European Union**

The European Union as a global actor works to improve the lives of people in Europe and worldwide. The EU and ASEAN have a long-standing partnership. Through the exchanges of best practises and know-how, the EU is committed to support ASEAN's rapid growth and development. The collaboration between ASEAN and the EU with the support of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) will ensure that the highest common standards of safety and environmental protection in civil aviation are achieved.

**Contacts for media**

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