

Media Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHAY PACIFIC RELEASES DECEMBER 2005 TRAFFIC FIGURES

Cathay Pacific today released traffic figures for December and cumulative figures for the whole year that show new passenger and cargo records were achieved in 2005 on the back of continued investment in aircraft and network expansion.

The airline in December carried 1,411,884 passengers, a 10.9 percent increase over the same month the previous year, and 104,994 tonnes of cargo, up 26.3 percent. The peak year-end holiday season lifted the passenger load factor to a high 80.2 percent, up 1.2 percentage points from December the previous year with traditional high demand to Europe, South Pacific, the UK and the Philippines.

December's cargo load factor was 68.5 percent, up only 0.3 points from a year ago. This reflected both the availability of greater capacity and directional imbalances of trade. Freighters departing Hong Kong full often return from Europe, North America and Australia with much lighter loads.

Figures for the full year show that passenger and cargo growth kept ahead of corresponding increases in capacity – an indication that Cathay Pacific remained very competitive against other carriers.

The airline carried a record 15,438,243 passengers in 2005, a 13.0 percent increase over 2004 – itself a record year. The passenger load factor in 2005 gained 1.7 points to 78.7 percent. The volume of cargo carried increased 15.0 percent to 1,118,047 tonnes, another annual record. The cargo load factor for the year dipped 1.7 points to 67.0 percent.

Meanwhile, passenger capacity measured in terms of available seat kilometres, or ASKs, increased 11.8 percent over the same period as seven passenger aircraft joined the fleet, enabling more flights. A third daily service was added to Los Angeles, a fourth to London and additional flights were launched to Amsterdam, Beijing, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Nagoya, Perth, Singapore and Xiamen.

Two freighters joined the airline's fleet during the course of the year, including last month's delivery of the world's first freighter converted from a Boeing 747-400 passenger aircraft. A brand new freighter service was launched to Dallas and Atlanta. This contributed to a 12.9 percent increase in cargo capacity, measured in terms of available cargo/mail tonne kilometres.

Cathay Pacific's fleet will total 100 aircraft in 2006, its 60th Anniversary year. Pressing ahead with future growth, the airline in December announced its biggest-ever acquisition of new aircraft with orders for 16 long-haul Boeing 777-300ERs and purchase rights on 20 more, plus three Airbus A330-300s for regional services.

This coming Chinese New Year Cathay Pacific will operate an additional 68 pairs of flights to meet peak demand. Extra services and charters will operate to Taipei, Sapporo, Seoul, Bangkok, Osaka, Langkawi and Pusan. The airline operated 52 additional pairs of flights during last year's Lunar New Year.



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Cathay Pacific General Manager Revenue Management, Sales & Distribution Ian Shiu said: "It was a good December and a successful 2005, even though high fuel prices took the shine a strong all-round performance. Growth in 2005 was demand-led with strong support in both the front and back end. The strength of our network sustained all our new services introduced through the year. December flights were very full even though Christmas and the Chinese New Year holiday fall within a month of each other. Yet with even more extra flights planned than last year, the Chinese New Year is shaping up to be very busy for us as well."

Cathay Pacific Director & General Manager Cargo Ron Mathison said: "We finished the year with a strong December. The carriage of mail also made a significant contribution for the year. High demand for shipments out of Hong Kong continued to contrast sharply in December, as it has all year, with a much weaker in-bound market made worse by an abundance of competitor and charter capacity to and from Europe and North America."

TRAFFIC	Dec 2005	% change vs Dec 04	Cumulative Dec 2005	Cumulative Dec 2004	% change
RPK (000)					
- North Asia	808,482	6.9%	9,235,320	8,264,099	11.8%
- South East Asia & Middle East	1,267,181	9.7%	13,028,895	11,714,347	11.2%
- Europe	1,189,177	14.8%	14,131,366	12,720,958	11.1%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	1,149,339	6.0%	10,931,704	9,004,066	21.4%
- North America	1,636,096	22.4%	17,782,490	15,579,825	14.1%
RPK Total (000)	6,050,275	12.7%	65,109,775	57,283,295	13.7%
Passengers carried	1,411,884	10.9%	15,438,243	13,663,958	13.0%
Cargo and mail tonne km (000)	623,457	17.6%	6,618,261	6,007,286	10.2%
Freight carried (000Kg)	104,994	26.3%	1,118,047	972,416	15.0%
Number of flights	3,009	12.3%	33,560	30,403	10.4%

CAPACITY	Dec 2005	% change vs Dec 04	Cumulative Dec 2005	Cumulative Dec 2004	% change
ASK (000)					
- North Asia	1,149,312	10.5%	13,053,617	12,289,845	6.2%
- South East Asia & Middle East	1,587,834	8.8%	17,379,774	15,764,547	10.2%
- Europe	1,465,940	15.1%	16,181,103	15,194,560	6.5%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	1,321,883	0.1%	14,656,208	12,465,595	17.6%
- North America	2,023,299	19.1%	21,495,693	18,347,862	17.2%
ASK Total (000)	7,548,268	11.1%	82,766,395	74,062,409	11.8%
Passenger load factor	80.2%	1.2pt	78.7%	77.3%	1.4pt
Available cargo/mail tonne km (000)	910,215	17.2%	9,878,931	8,747,971	12.9%
Cargo and mail load factor	68.5%	0.3pt	67.0%	68.7%	-1.7pt
ATK (000)	1,628,183	14.4%	17,751,456	15,793,549	12.4%

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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The Cathay Pacific Website can be found at www.cathaypacific.com

** Cathay Pacific was voted 'Airline of the Year 2005' in the world's largest passenger poll conducted by UK-based Skytrax Research.*

