

Media Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHAY PACIFIC RELEASES APRIL 2006 TRAFFIC FIGURES

Cathay Pacific today released traffic figures for April 2006 that reflect continued cargo growth and a boost to already high passenger demand from public holidays.

In April, the airline carried 1,394,688, passengers, a 14.6 percent increase over the same month last year. The comparative percentage increase may have been inflated as Easter last year fell in March. Yet April's load factor was a high 80.7 percent – up more than three points even with an 11.5 percent increase in capacity, measured in terms of available seat kilometres.

The airline operated 22 extra pairs of flights, mostly to regional destinations, to meet peak leisure travel demand. This compares to 15 pairs last year. Demand to destinations within Southeast Asia was higher than last year when many travellers were deterred by the Indian Ocean Tsunami. Students and schoolchildren returning to Hong Kong for the holiday lifted passenger numbers as well.

The airline carried 96,663 tonnes of cargo in April, up 3.8 percent from the same month last year, and ahead of a corresponding 1.4 percent increase in capacity, measured in terms of available cargo/mail tonne kilometres. Easter is usually slower for cargo as many companies take a break over the holiday.

Cathay Pacific General Manager Revenue Management, Sales & Distribution Ian Shiu said: "In April we saw very strong demand and Southeast Asia was well up. Corporate sales were strong, particularly during the second half of the month, and these customers remain upbeat with the threat of Avian Flu subsiding and continued strength in the economy. Still, rising world interest rates and instability in oil producing areas makes the long-term outlook a little uncertain."

Cathay Pacific Director & General Manager Cargo Ron Mathison said: "Easter is always slower for cargo, yet outbound freighters were still good with continued high demand from China exporters. Regional markets such as Vietnam and Sri Lanka have grown fast and will be ones to watch in the future as well. Fuel costs trended upwards through April and continued to rise in early May, adding further negative pressure to the bottom line."

Full April 2006 figures are on the following page.



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TRAFFIC	Apr 2006	% change vs Apr 05	Cumulative Apr 2006	Cumulative Apr 2005	% change
RPK (000)					
- North Asia	805,758	13.4%	3,200,560	2,947,390	8.6%
- South East Asia & Middle East	1,170,485	14.8%	4,445,586	3,984,562	11.6%
- Europe	1,324,217	19.9%	4,898,555	4,358,694	12.4%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	890,865	7.8%	3,900,939	3,792,039	2.9%
- North America	1,670,961	21.4%	6,497,514	5,466,364	18.9%
RPK Total (000)	5,862,286	16.3%	22,943,154	20,549,049	11.7%
Passengers carried	1,394,688	14.6%	5,413,161	4,844,434	11.7%
Cargo and mail tonne km (000)	562,036	2.8%	2,219,685	2,031,382	9.3%
Freight carried (000Kg)	96,663	3.8%	381,347	338,356	12.7%
Number of flights	2,919	7.4%	11,600	10,633	9.1%

CAPACITY	Apr 2006	% change vs Apr 05	Cumulative Apr 2006	Cumulative Apr 2005	% change
ASK (000)					
- North Asia	1,132,774	7.9%	4,528,939	4,183,632	8.3%
- South East Asia & Middle East	1,498,201	8.5%	5,973,513	5,566,159	7.3%
- Europe	1,590,757	25.2%	5,865,379	4,972,163	18.0%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	1,091,436	-6.2%	4,899,839	4,967,101	-1.4%
- North America	1,949,788	18.2%	7,827,460	6,576,103	19.0%
ASK Total (000)	7,262,956	11.5%	29,095,130	26,265,158	10.8%
Passenger load factor	80.7%	3.3pt	78.9%	78.2%	0.7pt
Available cargo/mail tonne km (000)	819,213	1.4%	3,299,793	3,118,668	5.8%
Cargo and mail load factor	68.6%	1.0pt	67.3%	65.1%	2.2pt
ATK (000)	1,509,917	5.8%	6,066,906	5,617,221	8.0%

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

Cathay Pacific named 'Airline of the Year 2006' by Air Transport World

