



## Media Release

23 December 2022

To: The News Editor

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **SINGAPORE AND JAPAN SIGNED HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ARRANGEMENT TO COLLABORATE ON CIVIL AVIATION**

*The arrangement is the first of its kind to be signed between Japan and a Southeast Asian nation*

On 23 December 2022, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) signed a high-level strategic framework arrangement to collaborate on civil aviation as the two major air hubs of the Asia-Pacific region emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and work with their respective industries to rebuild their aviation sectors. The comprehensive framework arrangement covering six key areas, namely air transport, aviation sustainability, aviation safety, air traffic management, airport innovation and technology and unmanned aircraft systems and advanced air mobility, was signed by Mr Han Kok Juan, Director-General of CAAS and Mr Toshiyuki Onuma, Assistant Vice-Minister for International Aviation, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) in Tokyo, Japan. The arrangement is the first of its kind signed between Japan and a Southeast Asian nation.

2 Under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to establish the higher-level strategic bilateral framework for civil aviation cooperation between Singapore and Japan, CAAS and JCAB will collaborate and share expertise in six areas of mutual interests:

i. Air Transport

- a. Enhance air connectivity between Singapore and Japan
- b. Establish knowledge exchange in areas such as economic regulation, airport and airline developments and consumer protection
- c. Facilitate greater cooperation between airlines of both countries

ii. Aviation Sustainability

- a. Establish knowledge exchange in areas such as the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and the ICAO Long Term Global Aspirational Goal for International Aviation and Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF);
- b. Study on developing “green lanes” between Singapore and Japan to encourage the gradual uptake of SAF-operated flights
- c. Knowledge exchange on jobs and skills transformation needed for the creation of new jobs in sustainable aviation;

iii. Aviation Safety

- a. Enhance each other safety inspectors’ competencies in evaluating effectiveness of service providers’ safety management systems (SMS) through joint SMS assessment exercises
- b. Share experiences and exchange learning points in the development and implementation of State Safety Programmes, including voluntary reporting systems;

- iv. Air Traffic Management (ATM)
  - a. Deepen cooperation to enhance air traffic flow management, information management, performance benchmarking, trajectory-based operations and sustainable CNS/ATM
  - b. Pursue “green ATM operations” between Singapore and Japan
  
- v. Airport Innovation and Technology
  - a. Establish knowledge exchange on innovative technologies at airports to improve and achieve service, manpower and sustainability goals;
  - b. Establish knowledge exchange on the regulatory and safety frameworks for supporting implementation of innovative technologies
  - c. Establish new areas of collaboration and knowledge exchange including supporting technological trials to facilitate hydrogen fuel cell powered airside ground vehicles and refueling options
  
- vi. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM)
  - a. Collaborate on development of policies, regulatory requirements, standards and technical references for UAS and AAM in the areas of safe operation, traffic management, as well as vertiport standards.

3 Extensive air connectivity between Singapore and Japan continues to drive strong travel demands between the two nations. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, passenger movements between Singapore and Japan reached a historic high of 3.4million. Over 200 weekly passenger services between Singapore and seven Japanese cities contributed to Japan’s stronghold as Singapore’s seventh largest market. As air travel recovers, Japan remains a top destination for travel and five of the seven air links between the nations

have been re-established and monthly passenger traffic had recovered nearing 50% of pre-pandemic levels.

4 Mr Han Kok Juan, Director-General of CAAS said: "Singapore is honoured to be the first Southeast Asian nation Japan signs this framework arrangement with. It is testament to our strong economic and people-to-people ties and shared interest to expand air links between ourselves and beyond. The framework arrangement will also allow us to leverage complementary strengths in our respective public and private sectors to seize new opportunities in sustainability, technology and innovation."

5 Mr Toshiyuki Onuma, Assistant Vice-Minister for International Aviation, MLIT, said: "The comprehensive framework arrangement in the civil aviation field which Japan and Singapore have just signed is the landmark of the history of civil aviation relations between the two countries. I believe that such an arrangement is crucial for never-ending development of the bilateral ties for the future, especially in the fluctuating situation worldwide, which the aviation industry of both sides are now facing. In particular, regarding aviation sustainability, the framework arrangement will accelerate and facilitate both parties' efforts for aviation decarbonization, such as expansion of development and deployment of SAF, including study for developing "Singapore-Japan Green Lane", toward realization of 2050 net-zero emission long-term aspirational goal established by ICAO."



The mission of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) is to grow a safe, vibrant air hub and civil aviation system, making a key contribution to Singapore's success. CAAS' roles are to oversee and promote safety in the aviation industry, develop the air hub and aviation industry, provide air navigation services, provide aviation training for human resource development, and contribute to the development of international civil aviation. For more information, visit [www.caas.gov.sg](http://www.caas.gov.sg).

### **About the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau**

The Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) is one of the bureaus of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), consisting of the Aviation Network Department, Aviation Safety and Security Department, and Air Navigation Department. JCAB is responsible for the maintenance of airports, the safety of air transportation and the improvement of user convenience, and the development of the air transportation industry. For more information, please visit the MLIT website <https://www.mlit.go.jp>.

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