



IAAI Newsletter

July 2014, IInd Fortnight Issue

IAAI News



IAAI & ETAA renew MoU

IAAI had a Joint Meeting with ETAA on 19th July 2014, at Hotel Ambassador Mumbai. The two travel trade associations, renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a further period of 3 years.. The two associations unanimously decided to form a Joint Working Committee to formulate a



strategy to work together. It was decided that three members from each association will be

nominated as part of the Committee by the mid-next month, and later the same will be replicated at the regional level. IAAI and ETAA are the only two travel trade associations in India that have come together and signed an MoU for the welfare of travel agents.



Present on the occasion were Mr Biji Eapen, President, IAAI; Mr Karl Dantas, Chairman Emeritus, ETAA; Mr D L Jekannathan, Secretary, IAAI; Mr Jagat Mehta, Acting President, ETAA; Mr S Saldanha, Treasurer, IAAI; and the committee members of the two associations.

The two Associations have come together to collaborate and work on a Common Agenda, leveraging mutual strengths. It marks the beginning of a New Era of constructive collaboration to nurture and promote the interests of the Travel Agent Community. With more than 1750 Members under one common umbrella, the IAAI - ETAA Alliance will be able to represent the Travel Agent community on a bigger scale, which will help resolve pending issues and challenges.

Soon after the Meeting concluded, everyone observed a minute's silence in memory of all those who died in the tragic crash of the flight MH 17. A condolence message was duly read out, jointly signed by the two Associations' Presidents and sent on to Malaysian Airlines.

Civil Aviation Ministry grants approval for six new airlines for national and regional operations



Ministry of Civil Aviation
Government Of India

Overtuning a policy of selectively granting aviation licences to applicants, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India has approved six new airlines. The move could result in as many as eight new airlines taking to the skies this fiscal year (2014-

15), including Tata Sons Ltd.'s low-cost Joint Venture (JV) with AirAsia Bhd. that has already started flights and its premium JV with Singapore Airlines Ltd. (SIA), expected to launch operations in October.

The six airlines are Air One Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Zexus Air and Premier Air, which are seeking to become national airlines; Turbo Megha, Air Carnival and Zav Airways, which will be regional airlines that operate in limited geographies. The move is likely to stoke competition, leading to lower fares for consumers, and at the same time improve connectivity across the country. Minister for Civil Aviation, Government of India, has in the last one month, awarded No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) to the six airlines that have been pending approval for a long time. Of the new applicants, Air One already runs charter operations with about half-a-dozen business jets and helicopters, and is likely to be based out of Delhi.

Jet Airways to introduce India-Vietnam flight in Nov 2014

Jet Airways (India) Ltd. will introduce a flight to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam in November this year. This will be the airline's 22nd international destination. In 2011, Jet Airways had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vietnam Airlines to co-operate in commercial, technical, and training areas. Currently there is no direct air link between India and Vietnam. The airline will extend its Delhi-Bangkok service to Ho Chi Minh City and passengers from Mumbai will be connected to the flight via Bangkok.



JET AIRWAYS

FLT NO	FROM	TO	DEP	ARR	Days of Operations	Start Date
9W 64	Delhi	Ho Chi Minh City	09.10 am	5.15 pm	Daily	9 Nov
9W 63	Ho Chi Minh City	Delhi	6.15 pm	11.55 pm	Daily	9 Nov
9W 70	Mumbai	Bangkok	7.50 am	1.35 pm	Daily	Already Exists
9W 64	Bangkok	Ho Chi Minh City	3.45 pm	5.15 pm	Daily	9 Nov
9W 63	Ho Chi Minh City	Bangkok	6.15 pm	7.45 pm	Daily	9 Nov
9W 67	Bangkok	Mumbai	9.35 pm	12.30 am	Daily	Already Exists

Air India resumes Delhi-Moscow flights after 15 years



Air India Ltd. has restarted non-stop operations between Delhi and Moscow, Russia after a gap of 15 year, with a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The national carrier is currently offering promotional fares on this route in both directions. The service on the Delhi-Moscow route was suspended 15 years ago due to operational reasons.

The service on the Delhi-Moscow-Delhi sector will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Flight AI-155 will leave Delhi at 0155 hrs to arrive in Moscow at 0615 hrs, while the return flight will leave Moscow at 0820 hrs as AI-154 and reach Delhi at 1530 hrs.

Emirates commences A380 services to India

Emirates commenced its first scheduled Airbus A380 service to India from 22nd July 2014 with a daily flight between Dubai and Mumbai. The EK500 flight took off from Dubai International Airport at 2155 , arriving at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) in Mumbai at 0230 hrs, covering the approximate 2,222 kms at an average cruising speed of 822 kmph. The return flight EK501 took off from Terminal 2 of Mumbai Airport at 0430hrs and arrived at Terminal 3 at Dubai Airport, the airline's home and hub for its specially designed A380 terminal - Concourse A, at 0600 hrs.



Etihad launches Mobile Boarding Passes

Etihad Airways has introduced mobile boarding passes for passengers using its mobile online check-in facility. The service is only available from selected airports. The mobile boarding pass will contain the same information as traditional passes including guest name and seat number, as well as a barcode which will be scanned by an electronic reader at the departure gate. The Gulf carrier said the new facility offers “increased check-in options, reduces paper wastage and enables the storage of multiple boarding passes on one mobile device”. The new feature is available for passengers travelling from Abu Dhabi, Heathrow, Manchester, Doha, Colombo, Dammam, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Sao Paulo, Istanbul, Minsk, Munich, and Tokyo Narita. Etihad said the number of airport's equipped with the mobile boarding pass readers will steadily increase as the airline installs the new technology across its global network.

Flydubai to start five-times-a-week flights to Mumbai from October



Commencing on October 28, 2014, flydubai will operate direct flights five times a week between Dubai International Airport's Terminal 2 and Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, and increase the frequency of flights to Delhi to five weekly. With the addition of Mumbai to its network, flydubai now serves seven destinations in India, with 25 flights a week. Flight FZ445 will depart from Dubai at 2240 hrs local

time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, landing in Mumbai at 0300 hrs local time.

Flight FZ446 will depart from Mumbai at 0400 hrs on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and arrive in Dubai at 0600 hrs local time.

In June, flydubai doubled its network in India with the start of flights to Delhi, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram.

AirAsia India to start daily flights to Jaipur & Chandigarh from Sept 5

AirAsia India will start operations in the Northern region of the country with daily services to two new destinations, namely Jaipur and Chandigarh. The airline will start daily flights from Bengaluru to Jaipur and Chandigarh, effective September 5, 2014. Coinciding with the new routes, AirAsia India will increase frequency from one daily flight to two daily flights from Bengaluru to Goa.



The AirAsia India flight I5 1722 will depart from Bengaluru Airport at 0945 hrs to reach Jaipur at 1220 hrs, while the return flight I5 1723 will take off at 1245 hrs to land at 1515 hrs.

Chandigarh-bound flight I5 1824 will depart from Bengaluru at 1545 hrs and reach at 1840 hrs, while on the return leg, flight I5 1825 will leave at 1905 hrs to reach Bengaluru at 2205 hrs.

The Bengaluru-Goa flight I5 1322 will leave at 0620 hrs to land at 0735 hrs, while flight I5 1323 will take off at 0805 to reach Bengaluru at 0915 hrs.

Visa News

- Reunion Island had introduced the Visa on Arrival (VoA) facility to Indians. Under the facility, the visa is valid for 15 days. The VoA is free of charge and can be availed by Indian travellers who have booked packages (flight tickets and accommodation) through an Indian agent or tour operator working with a local DMC (Destination Management Company) in Reunion Island.
- The Government of Jordan has announced an amendment in the cost of entry visas to the country. As per the revision in the cost, the Single Entry Visa, valid for 2 months, will cost JOD 40 (approx USD 56). The Double Entry Visa valid for 3 months will cost JOD 60 (approx USD 85) & Multiple Entry Visa valid for 6 months will cost JOD 120 (approx USD 170).
- The Government of India has extended tourist Visa on Arrival (VoA) facility to citizens of South Korea. A maximum validity of 30 days with Single Entry VoA facility will be offered to South Korean tourists at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram & Kochi Airports at a fee of US\$60.

UK makes student visa rules more stringent



Britain announced a fresh crackdown on student visas as further measures of the Immigration Act came into force. From November 2014, tougher rules will be imposed on universities and colleges who sponsor international students to study in the UK. Currently, educational institutions can enjoy Highly Trusted Sponsor status if the Home Office rejects 20% or fewer student applications as being invalid. But that figure will be cut to 10% from November after a three-month grace period for colleges and universities to re-examine and improve their admission procedures.

If more than one in ten applications are rejected from November onwards, educational institutions could lose their right to bring in new students from overseas. The change will ensure all institutions are playing their part in administering immigration rules to enjoy the benefits of bringing in foreign students.

News at a Glance....

- Keys Resorts has announced the addition of the Keys Ras Resorts Silvassa to its portfolio. Keys Ras Resorts will be the fourth Keys Resorts property and the third franchise of Berggruen Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
- Royal Jordanian (RJ) plans to stop services to Delhi, Mumbai and Lagos, in light of the airline's restructuring plan, including its route network. The airline will stop operating to Mumbai from September 10, to Lagos from October 10, and to Delhi from October 31, this year.
- Egypt's flagship carrier Egypt Air will start operating three weekly direct flights between Cairo and Delhi from October this year, adding to its four flights to Mumbai. Egypt Air is already operating four direct flights a week to Mumbai, and with the new three direct flights to Delhi, they will be operating seven flights a week to India.
- Reeling under the pressure of two catastrophic aviation tragedies, Malaysian Airline System Bhd or Malaysia Airlines is seriously considering a name change and restructuring of routes in a bid to repair its reputation. This also might cause Insurance premium for Indian Carriers to rise.
- Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. has expanded Four Points by Sheraton brand in Bengaluru, with the opening of the Four Points by Sheraton Bengaluru Whitefield. The property has 102 guest rooms, including seven suites.

Jet Airways to operate Second direct service on Mumbai-Colombo route from Nov 5



Jet Airways Ltd will operate a second direct flight from Mumbai to Colombo in Sri Lanka from November 5, 2014. The airline will operate a state-of-the-art Boeing 737 aircraft and guests can now avail of same day return journey on this route, especially for those travelling for business.

Flight 9W 252 will depart Mumbai at 1805 hrs and arrive into Colombo at 2035 hrs (local time). The return flight 9W 251 will depart Colombo at 2135 hrs (local time) and arrive in Mumbai at 0015 hrs.

The airline is offering an introductory return fare of Rs 17,000, inclusive of taxes, with sale validity until August 31, 2014. The introduction of this evening flight complements the late night flight from Mumbai to Colombo. Jet Airways will be the only airline to operate two flights a day to the island nation.

For Your Information....

List of the countries where ***"Indian Driving License"*** is valid

Here is a list of some countries you can drive in with your Indian Driving License. All the European countries listed, & USA, drive on the right, as opposed to the Indian left drive.

It also helps to have a GPS. Check if the car has one, or get one before you start out. Getting an International Driving Permit is recommended, & you can obtain one easily from your local RTO, provided you have all the required documents (Valid Driving License, Passport, Visa, CMV 4-A, CMV 1, CMV1A & photographs).

Following are the countries where you can drive with your valid ***"Indian Driving License"*** :-

- **Germany**
- **Switzerland**
- **France**
- **Norway**
- **USA**
- **Australia**
- **New Zealand**
- **South Africa**



Skytrax World Airline Awards 2014 winners

Airline consultant Skytrax has announced winners of the World Airline Awards 2014 at the on-going Farnborough International Airshow in England. The World Airline Awards are regarded as a benchmark of Passenger Satisfaction levels of airlines throughout the world, delivering a Survey format, based on analysis of business and leisure travellers, across all cabin travel types (First, Business, Premium Economy and Economy class passengers). The World Airline Customer Survey, conducted between August 2013 and May 2014, saw 18.85 million customer surveys being conducted. Travellers from more than 105 nationalities participated in the Survey, covering over 245 airlines, from large international airlines to smaller domestic carriers. The Survey measured standards across 41 key performance indicators of airline front-line product and service.

The World's Best 20 Airlines - 2014 :-

1. Cathay Pacific Airways
2. Qatar Airways
3. Singapore Airlines
4. Emirates
5. Turkish Airlines
6. ANA All Nippon Airways
7. Garuda Indonesia
8. Asiana Airlines
9. Etihad Airways
10. Lufthansa
11. Qantas Airways
12. EVA Air
13. Swiss
14. Thai Airways
15. Virgin Australia
16. Air New Zealand
17. British Airways
18. Malaysia Airlines
19. Hainan Airlines
20. Bangkok Airways

The World's Best Low-Cost Airlines :-

1. AirAsia
2. AirAsiaX
3. Norwegian
4. Jetstar Airways
5. IndiGo
6. easyJet
7. WestJet
8. Virgin America
9. Jetstar Asia
10. Scoot

The World's Best Airlines In Business Class :-

1. Qatar Airways
2. Cathay Pacific Airways
3. Singapore Airlines
4. Oman Air
5. Turkish Airlines
6. Qantas Airways
7. Etihad Airways
8. Garuda Indonesia
9. Emirates
10. Hainan Airlines

The World's Best Airlines In Economy Class :-

1. Asiana Airlines
2. Garuda Indonesia
3. Turkish Airlines
4. Qatar Airways
5. Cathay Pacific Airways
6. Singapore Airlines
7. EVA Air
8. Oman Air
9. Emirates
10. Thai Airways

The World's Best Airline Inflight Entertainment :-

1. Emirates
2. Singapore Airlines
3. Turkish Airlines
4. Qantas Airways
5. Cathay Pacific Airways
6. Virgin Atlantic
7. Qatar Airways
8. Air New Zealand
9. Virgin Australia
10. Etihad Airways

Lighter Moments

***If you can't find a lawyer who knows the law,
find a lawyer who knows the judge.***

Thought for the Fortnight

Adjustment with right people is always better than argument with wrong people.

IAAI Director Board

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|--|---|---|
| 1. Mr Biji Eapen, National President | : | Speedwings Travel & Cargo Pvt. Ltd., Kochi. |
| 2. Mr V L Jekannathan, National Gen. Secretary | : | All India Travel Agency (Madurai) Pvt. Ltd., Chennai. |
| 3. Mr Salvadore Saldanha, National Treasurer | : | S V Airlinks Pvt Ltd., Mumbai. |
| 4. Ms Surinder Kumar, Director—NR | : | Travelmate India Pvt Ltd., New Delhi. |
| 5. Mr Rajendra Churiwala, Director—ER | : | Survottam Travels (P) Ltd., Kolkata. |
| 6. Mr T K Gopakumar, Director—SR | : | Magellan Travel Services (P) Ltd., Chennai. |
| 7. Mr Naresh Rajkotia, Director—WR | : | Madhuram Travels & Tours, Mumbai. |

We welcome your suggestions to improve this newsletter.

The same may be forwarded to iaai.pune@iaai.in

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