



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE


SINGAPORE AVIATION ACADEMY AS INTERNATIONAL LEADER IN CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING

New programmes to train the next generation of aviation professionals

Singapore Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance, Mr Chee Hong Tat, unveiled today at the 2nd Changi Aviation Summit Welcome Dinner the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore's (CAAS) plans to enhance the Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA), to train the next generation of aviation professionals and support the growth of international aviation and the Singapore air hub. The enhancement will help SAA strengthen its position as a leader in civil aviation training, a convenor of global expertise and experience, and a thought leader in civil aviation.

Developing and delivering deep expertise in civil aviation

2 With increasing complexity in day-to-day aviation, SAA, which today offers over 110 aviation courses, will undertake a thorough view of its curriculum and refresh it to better equip aviation professionals with new competencies to help them navigate the post-COVID world, including in important functions such as aviation safety as well as emerging areas such as sustainability and innovation. The enhanced SAA will also sharpen its sharing of



Singapore's experience in developing and running an international air hub in areas such as aviation management, aviation safety and security and air traffic services through lectures by experts and collaboration with local and international partners, including its newly appointed SAA Senior Fellows. SAA will focus on developing and delivering deep expertise in civil aviation, adopting an international yet uniquely Singapore practice-oriented approach, to differentiate itself from other aviation universities and academies around the world.


3 In line with this approach, CAAS has appointed three senior professional staff to head the SAA Schools of Aviation Management, Aviation Safety and Security, and Air Traffic Services to review and develop new professional curricula, build up the pool of trainers, and convene new platforms for thought leadership and engagement:

(i) **Aviation Management**

Mr Daniel Ng, CAAS' Chief Sustainability Officer and Senior Director of the Aviation Development Group, has been appointed Head of SAA School of Aviation Management. The School of Aviation Management will enhance its management and leadership programmes for aviation professionals. It will launch a new programme on Climate Change and Aviation Sustainability in October 2024, organised jointly with Airports Council International (ACI) World. This is the first course in SAA that covers a broad range of sustainability issues from sustainable aviation fuels to social sustainability issues and external challenges.

(ii) **Aviation Safety and Security**

Mr Alan Foo, Senior Director of the Safety Regulation Group, has been appointed Head of the School of Aviation Safety and Security. The School of Aviation Safety and Security will introduce new programmes in cybersecurity, mental health,




runway safety and safety culture, through collaboration with local and international partners. It will refresh its suite of programmes in domains such as aerodrome regulation, airworthiness, aviation medicine and flight operations.

At the Changi Aviation Summit Welcome Dinner, Minister Chee Hong Tat and President of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano signed a new Annex to the Singapore-ICAO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in Leadership and Management Training for SAA to develop and deliver up to seven runs of a refreshed ICAO-SAA Directors-General Programme on Aviation Safety over the next three years. The training programme targets Directors-General to help them better manage safety related challenges post-COVID and to provide a closed-door platform to discuss topical challenges.

On the same day, Mr Han Kok Juan, Director-General of CAAS and Capt Amornvaj Mansumitchai, the President of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA), also signed an MOU for SAA and IFALPA to work together on the curation and delivery of safety programmes for pilots and other safety professionals, in areas such as competency development, safety culture and human factors. Both parties also agreed to build up a pool of trainers for these programmes.

(iii) **Air Traffic Services**

Mr Vincent Hwa, Director of Air Traffic Services, has been appointed Head of the School of Air Traffic Services. The School of Air Traffic Services will develop new programmes on emerging operational concepts such as Trajectory Based Operations (TBO). It will refresh its current suite of programmes in core domains



to build a new generation of skilled air traffic controllers to meet the future needs especially when the new Changi Airport Terminal Five comes into operation.

4 To support this effort, CAAS will also appoint five international and local industry veterans as SAA Senior Fellows. The SAA Fellows will guide curriculum development, personally deliver training programmes targeted at C-suite executives and Directors-General as well as mentor SAA scholars. The five Senior Fellows are well-regarded for their expertise and contributions to the aviation sector (please see Annex A):

- (i) **Mr Stephen Creamer** – Former Director of Air Navigation Bureau at ICAO
- (ii) **Mr Patrick Ky** – Chief Executive Officer of the International Centre for Aviation Innovation, and former Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency
- (iii) **Mr Mak Swee Wah** – Former Executive Vice President of Operations and Chief Operations Officer of Singapore Airlines
- (iv) **Mr Ng Chin Hwee** – Former Chief Executive Officer of SIA Engineering Company
- (v) **Mr Yacoob Piperdi** – Former Chief Executive Officer of SATS Gateway Services

Providing a unique learning experience and public spaces for all to enjoy

5 Over the next two years, to better equip SAA with the enlarged roles, SAA will undergo a \$120 million transformation to increase its training capacity by 20% and provide an enhanced learning experience for aviation professional at the junior, middle



management, and C-suite levels, with technology-enabled classrooms and more networking and informal learning spaces.

6 The new SAA building will also be a vibrant hub providing new community and event spaces for the public to enjoy. These include a new rooftop terrace providing unique views of Changi Airport, a public events hall, a restaurant, a courtyard and new Aviation Gallery sharing the story of Singapore aviation with Singaporeans, including school students, tourists and foreign guests. The new SAA, with its public facilities and spaces, will add to the vibrancy of the Changi Village precinct, and support our efforts to engage families and young people and to interest more Singaporeans to consider taking up courses and careers in the aviation industry. The new SAA is designed by Ateliers Jean Nouvel together with local firm P&T Consultants (please see Annex B).

7 The spatial transformation will start in April this year and be completed in 2026. During this period, SAA will continue to offer its training programmes at hotels and other conference venues in Singapore as well as overseas.

8 Established in 1958, SAA has grown from a local training school to become the global aviation training academy of today (please see Annex C). Over the past 65 years, SAA has trained more than 157,000 aviation professionals from over 200 countries. SAA Alumni include current serving Directors-General of 16 countries (please see Annex D).

9 To further extend SAA's outreach and contribution to ICAO's effort to develop the next generation of aviation professionals, Minister Chee Hong Tat and Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano today also signed an MOU on Singapore-ICAO Next Generation Aviation Professionals Scholarship Programme. The Scholarship Programme is targeted at young aviation professionals from all regions aged 35 and below, to provide them a foundation on



key aviation topics. There will be an annual intake of 10 scholars, who will have the opportunity to complete a 6-week in-Singapore programme at the SAA and an aviation company in Singapore within three years. Each SAA scholar will also be personally mentored by a SAA Senior Fellow.

10 Mr Han Kok Juan, Director-General of CAAS, said, “Demands of the aviation sector have changed significantly after the COVID-19 pandemic; CAAS is conducting a sector-wide manpower study to establish what Singapore needs. SAA’s enhancement will support this to ensure that the Singapore air hub has a strong pipeline of highly qualified, highly trained aviation professionals with deep expertise. The new SAA will also provide a better platform for CAAS to engage and contribute to international aviation, to learn from others’ experiences and to share Singapore’s approach, what have worked for us and what have not, and our thinking on how to navigate the future. SAA is uniquely located between Changi Airport and Changi Village. We are taking the opportunity of the enhancement to create new public spaces that Singaporeans can enjoy. We will integrate our plans for SAA into the larger development of the Changi Village precinct to add to its buzz, vibrancy, and offerings.”

Annex A – Profiles of SAA Senior Fellows

Annex B – Artist Impressions of SAA Spatial Transformation

Annex C – About SAA

Annex D – SAA Alumni

About the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS)

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.

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Profiles of SAA Senior Fellows

Mr Stephen P. Creamer



Steve Creamer served as Director of the Air Navigation Bureau at ICAO from April 2015 through June 2023, completing his tenure at ICAO as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary-General in September 2023.

Steve began his aviation career in as an air traffic controller and is a private pilot. Steve previously held a number of managerial and executive roles at the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration with over 33 years' experience in the Air Traffic and International Aviation organizations. He served as a member of the ICAO Air Navigation Commission as well.

At ICAO, he was responsible for the delivery of safety and air navigation strategic outcomes, integrating security and environmental requirements into developing ICAO SARPs and PANS. During his tenure, ICAO kept pace with industry developments with innovative and engaging symposia, specialized workgroups and now remote conferencing to help Member States and industry stakeholders tackle complex challenges like safe carriage of lithium batteries, safe digital connectivity of safety systems, new remote flying technology, enhanced runway safety procedures and enhanced aircraft tracking systems, among many others. ICAO was credited with innovative leadership to keep aviation safety standards harmonized during the COVID-19 pandemic, guiding Member States on operational mitigations that allowed international air cargo operations throughout the crisis. He also served the ICAO Council advising Member States to successfully resolve complex airspace design negotiations in several regions.

Mr Patrick Ky



Mr Patrick Ky is the Chief Executive Officer of International Centre for Aviation Innovation.

Prior to this, Mr Ky was the Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2023. Prior to leading EASA, Mr Ky was in charge of SESAR, Europe's ATM modernisation programme. He also held different managerial and policy positions in the French Civil Aviation Authority, in a consulting company, in Eurocontrol and in the European Commission. In 2013, Mr Ky was the recipient of the Glen A. Gilbert Memorial Award of the Air Traffic Controllers Association as a recognition of his achievements in the field of aviation and for being an advocate of innovation and change in air traffic control. In 2015, he was designated "Industry Leader of the Year" by the German publication Flieger Magazine for his commitment to develop simpler, better and lighter rules for General Aviation. He is a Knight of the French Legion d'Honneur, and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Mr Ky is a graduate from Ecole Polytechnique and the Civil Aviation Engineering School in France. He holds Masters degrees in economics from the University of Toulouse and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Mr Mak Swee Wah



Mr Mak Swee Wah retired as Executive Vice President Operations and Chief Operations Officer on 9 September 2023 after 40 years with Singapore Airlines. During his tenure, Mr Mak has held a number of senior management roles in Singapore as well as overseas.

Mr Mak was appointed General Manager for SilkAir in 1997. After 2000, he held senior management positions in the marketing, planning and operational areas in Singapore Airlines. Following his promotion to Executive Vice President in 2008, he has helmed both the Operations and Commercial portfolios, and was also the Chairman of SilkAir. Mr Mak chaired the Restart Task Force that played a pivotal role in managing the SIA's Group's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This helped to ensure that the organisation was operationally ready to be first off the blocks when the recovery eventually came.

Mr Mak has joined the board of directors at Sats as an independent, non-executive director, as well as a member of its audit committee, after his retirement.

He holds a master's degree in science majoring in operational research, and a Bachelor of Science with first class honours in accounting and finance from the London School of Economics and Political Science

Mr Ng Chin Hwee



Mr Ng Chin Hwee is a Board Director of SMRT Trains Ltd., a role he took on since 1 November 2023. He retired from his last role as Chief Executive Officer of SGX-listed SIA Engineering Company on 30 September 2023. Mr Ng joined Singapore Airlines in 1985 where he was appointed to various senior positions in Singapore and overseas. In 2004, he assumed the position of President & Chief Executive Officer of Singapore Airport Terminal Services Ltd (SATS).

He left SATS to rejoin Singapore Airlines as Executive Vice President for Human Resources and Planning on 1 January 2008. He assumed the position of Executive Vice President Human Resources and Operations on 1 February 2011 and was in charge of the divisions of Cabin Crew, Engineering, Flight Operations, Customer Services and Operations, and Human Resources.

Mr Ng held several board directorship positions during his career. In addition, he sat on several Committees, including ACCORD (Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence), Advisory Board at SUTD (Engineering Systems and Design Pillar) as well as the selection committees for the President's Science and Technology Award and President's Challenge Social Enterprise Award.

Mr Ng holds a Master of Science degree in Management (MBA) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, and a Bachelor of Engineering (First-Class Honours) from the National University of Singapore.

Mr Yacoob Piperdi



Mr Yacoob Piperdi is the former Chief Executive Officer, Gateway Services, of SATS Ltd. He joined the company in April 1981.

He has assumed various positions including Executive Vice President, Food Solutions; Senior Vice President, Cargo Services; Vice President, Apron Services; Vice President, Cargo Services; and Vice President, Inflight Catering Centre 2. He also held other managerial positions in apron and baggage, passenger services, marketing, and SIA Ground Services, where he was responsible for network procedures and ground handling contracts.

During his term in Food Solutions and Gateway Services, he spearheaded the Group's entry into an airside perishable handling centre (Coolport), an automated eCommerce facility within the airfreight terminal complex (eHub), and the sports catering, cruise terminal management and inflight duty-free and duty-paid retail sales businesses. He sat on various boards of SATS' joint-venture companies. He was a member of Saudi Arabia's private sector logistics advisory team. More recently he served as an advisor to Malaysia Airlines on inflight catering, and is currently serving as a consultant to Air India on its transformation of ground services. Mr Piperdi graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree, majoring in English.



Annex B

Artist Impressions of SAA Spatial Transformation



Refreshed Facade



Main Lobby



Technology-Enabled classrooms



Rooftop Terrace



Aviation Gallery



Green Space

About SAA



SAA is the training arm of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS).

It was first established in 1958 at Paya Lebar Air Base as a school for air traffic controllers. In 1972, it was relocated to larger facilities at Seletar Airport under the name “Civil Aviation Training Centre” (CATC). The CATC was renamed the Singapore Aviation Academy in 1990.

SAA has grown from a local training school to become a global aviation training academy with four schools offering over 110 unique programmes. Over the past 65 years, SAA has trained 157,000 aviation professionals from over 200 countries. SAA is an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Regional Training Centre of Excellence and a member of the ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Steering Committee, a recognition of its commitment to quality training delivery for aviation professionals internationally.

1958 Department of Civil Aviation Training School School for air traffic controllers	1972 Civil Aviation Training Centre Introduced courses in airport emergency services, airport management	1990 Rebranded as Singapore Aviation Academy Moved to this building in 1992, 30 years ago	2000 Conferral ICAO 34th Edward Warner Award Recognised by ICAO for contribution to international civil aviation	2014 ICAO Regional Training Centre of Excellence 1st in the world to be inaugurated	2017 Chair of ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Steering Committee (2017-2020) Led enhancements to ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS



30+
worldwide aviation alliances



110+
courses annually



157,000+
participants worldwide



200+
countries and territories

SAA Alumni

Over the years, SAA has trained many aviation professionals from around the world. Some have advanced in their careers to become Directors-General of Civil Aviation. Some current Directors-General who are SAA alumni are:

Name	Country	Region
Nigel Carter	Belize	Latin America
Keo Sivorn	Cambodia	Asia Pacific
John Hosking	Cook Islands	Asia Pacific
Theresa Maria O'Boyle-Levestam	Fiji	Asia Pacific
Fansu Bojang	Gambia	Africa
Givi Davitashvili	Georgia	Europe
Egbert Field	Guyana	Caribbean
Viengxay Singkam	Laos	Asia Pacific
Hussain Jaleel	Maldives	Asia Pacific
Iswarduth Pokhun	Mauritius	Africa
Yvonne Tuioti-Mariner	Samoa	Asia Pacific
Brian Halisanau	Solomon Islands	Asia Pacific
Hamza S. Johari	Tanzania	Africa
Dr. Vinolia Salesi	Tonga	Asia Pacific
Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi	United Arab Emirates	Middle East
Fred Bamwesigye	Uganda	Africa