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Singapore
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SEPTEMBER 2009

Another three years to full recovery

Air freight forwarding in the first six months of 2009 shrank by 28 per cent and sea freight forwarding fared even worse with a 32 per cent drop, according to Transport Intelligence.

According to TI CEO John Manners-Bell, indicators both within the market and in the wider economy are mixed. "We believe that it will be at least 2012 before the market returns to its 2008 value," he said.

More aircraft in service

The global airline fleet expanded by about two per cent in June, thanks to new plane deliveries and a larger-than-expected number of aircraft being taken

out of storage, according to the International Air Transport Association

(IATA). IATA estimates a net 68 aircraft were taken out of storage in June, the highest monthly net total in at least a year.

There also were 124 new aircraft delivered in the month, the highest number since December 2008.

China Southern adds third weekly to Melbourne

China Southern Airlines has added a third weekly flight – on Saturdays – between Melbourne and Guangzhou, China. The new service, initially routed via Sydney, will run until the end of March, 2010.

"The introduction of a third weekly flight from Melbourne to Guangzhou, and the move to nonstop flights from late October reflects our confidence in the Victorian market," said James Liu, the carrier's general manager Australia.



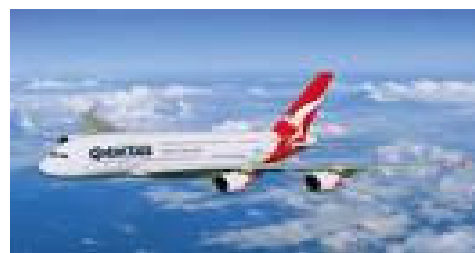
Qantas battens the hatches

Australia's Qantas says losses from its airfreight division will help force it to tighten its policy on fuel conservation, with strong competition from Asian carriers as well as capacity cuts contributing to its latest financial results.

The carrier said net income for the year to 30 June fell 88 per cent to A\$117 million. As a result, it has announced A\$1.5 billion of further cost-cutting measures.

"There has never been a more volatile and challenging time for the world's aviation industry," Qantas ceo Alan Joyce said.

Qantas now says it will not pay out a dividend for the year and neither will it offer any guidance on its profit for the next financial year "given the high level of uncertainty".



Air China to increase Cathay stake

China's Air China is to buy 12.5 per cent of Cathay Pacific Airways from Citic Pacific. Cathay parent Swire group will purchase another two per cent, also from Citic.

The outcome will give Air China 29.99 per cent of Cathay, while Citic will retain 2.98 per cent and Swire group will have 41.97 per cent. At 30 per cent, under HK Stock Exchange rules Air China would have to launch a takeover bid for Cathay Pacific.



Cool One for Changi

Singapore Airport Terminal Services (SATS) is to launch Coolport@Changi, an on-airport perishables handling centre costing US\$8.3 million, in Q1 2010.

It will be the first dedicated on-airport facility in Singapore for handling terminal and transit perishables cargo including medical supplies.

Located within SATS Airfreight Terminal 2, Coolport @ Changi will have an annual operating capacity of approximately 250,000 tonnes.

New screening rules have holes

Biosecurity experts say the new, more relaxed travel arrangements between Australia and New Zealand have holes that increase the risk of an agricultural disaster.

John Hartnell of Federated Farmers in NZ said it's not clear "if or how" carry-on baggage, air cargo and shoes will be screened.

"Computer screening or an x-ray machine's not going to pick up whether there is soil or bits and pieces on tramping shoes or rugby boots or whatever, so we have some real concerns in that particular area," said Hartnell.

An Agresearch study of soiled shoes looked at by Customs in NZ found two per cent carried mites and spiders, while 97 per cent carried fungi and 48 per cent of those also carried seeds, three quarters of which were capable of germinating.

Australian airfreight exports up in June

Airfreight exports from Australia were up 4.3 per cent in June at 23,182 tonnes, according to Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) figures.

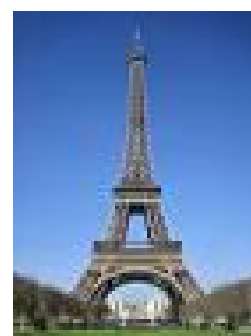
Imports fell 17 per cent to 33,146 tonnes and total international freight traffic dropped 9.2 per cent from the same period last year to 56,329 tonnes.

Top carriers in order were Qantas, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Emirates.

Down & dirty – 10 least comfortable terminals to transit through

1. Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris Slammed by travelers as the dirtiest airport in the world and "worse than a Third World airport", CDG was reviewed as being "smelly, hot, full of homeless people, lacks comfortable seating and is prone to losing luggage". "I could not believe the filth from hell, the bathrooms were worse than some I have seen in Africa!

Smell of urine all over the floor, faeces on the walls, toilet paper all over the place and rude workers," said one traveler who added : "All the terminals were full of homeless people who smelled bad and touched themselves in inappropriate places." Eeewwhhh!



2. Sheremetyevo Airport, Moscow SVO has been described as a dark, dirty cave with limited and uncomfortable seating, long lines, unhelpful staff and expensive food. One traveler dubbed it "hell on earth". "(My wife) moved from her bench after a woman nearby vomited. Several hours later my wife passed the spot and the vomit had not been cleaned," one traveler said.



3. JFK Airport, New York Travelers found JFK overcrowded, dirty and uncomfortable. "JFK was probably the most confusing and filthy airport terminal I have ever been in," said one.



4. Los Angeles Airport Reviewers said LAX has dirty bathrooms, metal benches, is cold, and there are frequent and loud announcements. "At 1am a security guard woke me and told me I had to leave because the airport was closed'," said one reviewer.



5. Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi

This airport has been described as being full of mosquitoes and birds, filthy, crowded, has poor signage and frequent announcements that increase at night. "Had to change in the toilet which made the one in Trainspotting look like the Ritz," a reviewer said. "It was dirty, with an allpervasive smell of sweet, over powering phenyl which they use for disinfecting. The departure lounge has this odour mixed with that of cigarettes," another said.



6. O'Hare International Airport, Chicago Sleepy travelers have been warned away from this "dirty" and noisy Chicago airport. "I believe it would be easier to sleep in the engine of a plane than to sleep in this place," said one.



7. Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai
A lack of food and shops open at night, "beyond disgusting" toilets, and poor air conditioning turns travelers off this airport.

"The heat and smell was ominous as soon as I left the plane," one traveler said. "There is nothing to do at the Mumbai airport. There are no shops in the main part of the terminal. Chilled (sweated, actually) on a chair for about 10 hours...the seating area was rather dirty," another said.



10. Heathrow Airport, London
Several travelers complained about flea infestations, as well as smelly carpets, confusing signs, a general dirtiness and lack of places to lie down. "My god... I would sooner eat my own face than sleep here again. I was contemplating suicide at 3.30am," one traveler said.



8. Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila

If visiting this "chaotic" airport be prepared for people wanting bribes, tourists warn. "Everywhere everyone asks for bribes. Never offer them anything. Act as if you do not know what they are saying and just walk past them," a resident Filipino said.



Clive Thomas -

All At C.T.Freight

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9. Leonardo da Vinci – Fiumicino Airport, Rome

Frequent announcements, bird poo and the tendency to be kicked out at night have turned travelers off this airport. "Birds live in the ceiling so look out for falling bird crap and bird crap on the seats," one traveler said.

