

PM: AVIATION SECTOR SET TO SOAR

Asia-Pacific airlines leading the way with impressive rise in Revenue Passenger Kilometres, he says

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MALAYSIA'S aviation industry is poised for recovery and is establishing a strong foundation for future growth and expansion, in line with the sector's overall resurgence in the region.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Asia-Pacific airlines were leading the way, achieving an impressive increase in Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPK).

"This year was also marked by total regional recovery in the airline industry, as all regions have overperformed their pre-Covid-19 pandemic levels. Asia Pacific airlines led by a large margin in terms



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim witnessing the exchange of documents by Malaysia Aviation Group group managing director Datuk Captain Izham Ismail (second from right) and Boeing Global president Dr Brendan Nelson AO in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

of annual growth, achieving a 16.9 per cent year-over-year rise in RPK.

"This illustrates the resilience in Malaysia's aviation sector, highlighting not only our capacity to recover, but also establishing a solid foundation for continued growth and expansion," he said.

Anwar said this in his keynote address at the document exchange ceremony for the MAG narrow-

body aircraft replacement order yesterday.

Present were Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Transport Ministry secretary-general Datuk Jana Santhiran Muniayan, Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) group managing director Datuk Captain Izham Ismail

and Boeing Global president Brendan Nelson AO.

Anwar also announced that MAG, the parent company of Malaysia Airlines, had placed an order for 30 Boeing 737 aircraft to enhance its fleet.

He said the significant investment would strengthen the nation's position in the global aviation industry.

"MAG has placed a firm order for 30 Boeing 737 aircraft, consisting of 18 units of the 737 MAX 8 model and 12 units of the 737 MAX 10 model, powered by CFM International LEAP-1B engines, with an option for an additional 30 aircraft. Delivery is scheduled to start from 2029.

"This milestone is not just about modernising the fleet but also fortifying Malaysia's position as a key player in global aviation and strengthening our economic foundation in an increasingly competitive world."

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said MAG's investment went beyond modern aircraft as it signified the group's commitment to progress and the future of air travel for all Malaysians and communities it serves.

"These aircraft will improve travel, incorporate modern technology and enhance efficiency, while also creating jobs, driving tourism and strengthening industries that thrive on a robust aviation sector.

"The ripple effect will be felt across our economy, creating new opportunities for businesses and individuals alike."

He added that with Malaysia strategically situated at the heart of Asean, it would serve as a gateway to Asia and beyond.

"In Visit Malaysia 2026, we are determined to foster a high-value, sustainable economy — one that supports innovation, attracts investment and elevates our global standing."

Anwar also expressed his pleasure at seeing Malaysia Airlines continue its longstanding relationship with Boeing, which has endured for more than 57 years since the introduction of the 707 aircraft in 1968.

"I trust that Boeing and GE Aerospace will recognise this partnership as a valuable opportunity to strengthen their presence in Malaysia, contributing to our nation's growth and technological advancement," he said.