

## **AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **The Work gets re-commenced at Pakyong Airport, Sikkim, Airport to be operationalized by September 2017.**

**New Delhi, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015,** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Airports Authority of India and the State Government of Sikkim in the presence of Shri R. Vijay Kumar, Secretary, DoNER, Shri R.N. Choubey, Secretary (Civil Aviation) and officials from Niti Ayog and Ministry of Civil Aviation for recommencement of work at Pakyong Airport. The work in the recent past were held up since January, 2015 due to local residents in the vicinity of upcoming airport agitating over the issue of compensation to be paid for the houses affected because of the earth filling works. The State Government has now committed to shift the household by 15<sup>th</sup> August and help AAI commence the work.

The work is to commence from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015 (post monsoon season) and the facility shall be operationalized by September 2017. At present 75% of the development work has already been accomplished and the balance 25% work is to be completed in the next two working seasons

The cost of Airport originally to be developed at the cost of Rs. 309.46 crores by AAI as Greenfield Airport has reason to Rs. 605.59 crores. Once this airport is developed, it will be capable of handling ATR-72 type of aircraft.

Pakyong is the only airport in the State of Sikkim which otherwise has poor connectivity being, a hilly terrain prone to landslides during monsoon season causing difficulty in commuting to other parts of the country. Availability of airport will fulfil long awaited aspirations of the public at large and provide them excellent

connectivity to various parts of the country and beyond thereby boosting the economy of the State.

The land for the airport is being reclaimed by hill-cutting on the mountain side and using the excavated materials for geo-technical fill on the valley side. To retain the land fill on the valley side, retaining structure of 74 m (230 ft) height (reinforced soil wall/gabions containing excavated rock) has been constructed (Amongst the tallest reinforced structures in the world)

The airport construction including navigational aids and passenger terminal will be completed by June 2017 and will be operationalized for commencement of flights by September 2017.

---

Issued by Public Relations Department  
For details please contact:  
GM(PR) 9810025069, 011-24622787  
No. 22/2015-16



Signing of MoU between Airports Authority of India and the State Government of Sikkim for “**Recommencement of work at Pakyong Airport**” in the august presence of Ms. Sindhushree Khullar, CEO, NITI Aayog (centre), Ms. Rinchon Ongmu, Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim (on her right). Also seen in the picture are Shri Arun Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Shri S. Raheja, Member (Planning), AAI and other senior officers from NITI Aayog, DoNER and Government of Sikkim. The MoU being exchanged between Shri Pawan Kumar Nagpal, Executive Director (Engg), AAI and Shri C. Zangpo, Secretary Tourism & Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim.