



AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Today 15nd July 2011, Airports Authority of India, New Delhi

AAI's Initiatives for - Environment Friendly, Economical and time saving Green Flights

Airports Authority of India, Airservices Australia and Air Traffic and Navigation Services South Africa (ATNS) have jointly signed a Partnership Agreement to form Indian Ocean Strategic Partnership to Reduce Emissions (INSPIRE) for improving the efficiency and sustainability of aviation in airspace over the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

The INSPIRE Partners aim to (i) accelerate the development and implementation of operational procedures to reduce the environmental footprint for all phases of flight on an operation-by-operation-basis, from gate-to-gate; (ii) facilitate world-wide interoperability of environmentally friendly procedures and standards; (iii) capitalize on existing technology and best practices; (iv) develop shared performance metrics to measure improvements in the environmental performance of the air transport system; (v) provide a systematic approach to ensure appropriate mitigation actions with short, medium and long-term results;

The INSPIRE Partners and participating airlines are taking various initiatives to reduce fuel burn and greenhouse gas emissions, thus reducing aviation's impact on the environment. The Etihad Airways, Emirates Airlines and Virgin Australia airlines will operate a series of demonstration flights between 16th July 2011 and 22nd July 2011. The demonstration flights will connect the city pairs of PERTH – DUBAI, ABUDHABI – SYDNEY and DUBAI – BRISBANE. The first three flights are scheduled to cross Indian Skies on 16th July 2011. The Airports Authority of India has taken the initiative to facilitate these flights through Indian Airspace via shortest flight paths.

The flights will operate in the Oceanic airspace of India over the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. The three flights on 16th July will operate in Indian airspace between 0900 IST to 1400 IST and the flight on 22nd July 2011 between 1400 to 1600 IST. The Air Traffic Control Centres of Airports Authority of India located at Mumbai and Trivandrum airports will facilitate these flights as per the international best practises. The flights will fly flexible tracks utilizing the tail wind conditions instead of flying straight line flight paths. Significant reductions in carbon emissions and fuel saving are expected for these flights. The results of demonstration flights may be used to adopt similar practises and procedures for all the flights in the region. The INSPIRE partnership is a huge step for aviation in India that will put AAI among the world leaders in the field of aviation.

The demonstration flights which will be flown on the principles of free flights, are a revolutionary step wherein history will be made that will pave the way for greener, cleaner and beautiful skies. (EOM)

Airports Authority of India

Issued By Public Relations Department

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