

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Joint Conference on *Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation* *– Synergy Through Cooperation*

Date: 5 to 6 July 2012

Venue: Orchard Hotel, Singapore

Back-ground: Singapore is hosting and organising this first ever Joint Conference on Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation, in close partnership with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), in their collaboration to enhance air cargo security and facilitation standards and approaches for air cargo consignments and the facilitation of global air cargo movement. Given the complexity, the sheer range and multiplicity of players involved in supply chains, as well as the fluidity across international borders that characterizes modern supply chains, Singapore supports the holistic total supply chain approach as the most practical and effective way to addressing cargo security and facilitation. This is also in line with the global effort toward supporting the enhancement of the total supply chain.

Agenda: The two-day Joint Conference is aimed at raising the understanding and awareness of aviation security and customs authorities, as well as private sector stakeholders, on relevant and topical issues faced by the global air cargo industry. It will also seek to identify synergies that can be developed to further enhance coordination and cooperation between aviation security, customs authorities, industry and other stakeholders to strengthen aviation and border security and facilitate the secure yet efficient movement of air cargo.

Speakers from the regulatory and industry realms will share their thoughts followed by panel discussions on issues related to air cargo security and facilitation with focus on the following themes:

- Threats, Challenges and Facilitation – Current Situation and Latest Developments
- Challenges faced by Stakeholders – Policy and Strategy, Operational and Implementation Hurdles
- Harnessing Synergies – Strengthening Cooperation, Collaboration and Harmonization of Standards and Measures

Benefits of attending the conference: The Joint Conference is an opportunity for participants to learn more about the current, new and emerging challenges faced by aviation security and customs authorities as well as industry, in their efforts to secure air cargo and enhance trade facilitation, which are important components of the global

supply chain. Participants will be able to hear from practitioners on their experience in dealing with air cargo security and facilitation.

Participants will be able to gain a more in-depth understanding of the current international aviation trade challenges, the emerging security protocols around the world and how all stakeholders can work together to enhance aviation security and trade facilitation. The establishment and maintenance of standards is essential, especially in securing the supply chain. This event will be a guide that will support all stakeholders amidst a dynamic and changing international business environment.

Participation Participants will have a unique opportunity to interact with senior policy makers, experts and practitioners from other organisations and States, to better understand the challenges faced and develop common and plausible solutions in the areas of security, customs and facilitation. This event will also provide for high value networking.

Participation at the Joint Conference is only by registration and there is a limited number of seats. As such, the number of participants from each organization may be limited to two, depending on the number of registrations received, on a first-come-first-served basis.

There are no registration or participation fees to be paid by delegates to attend the conference. All participants are to bear their own air and ground transportation, accommodation, subsistence and other costs.

To participate in the event, please print out and complete the attached conference Registration Form and email it to MOT_Secretariat@mot.gov.sg for processing. *Those who have registered will be informed subsequently whether their registration is successful and that their participation in the Joint Conference has been confirmed.*

*Registration for participation in the event closes on **20 June 2012**.*

Other Relevant Information: **Hotel Accommodation Reservation Form (Optional)** is attached for participants' consideration.

Information on Orchard Hotel, Singapore. Located at the famous Orchard Road shopping street (442 Orchard Road, Singapore 238879), please refer to the following webpage for more information on the hotel: <http://www.millenniumhotels.com.sg/orchardhotelsingapore/index.html>

General Information about Singapore, including information on Visa Requirements for Foreigners visiting Singapore, is also attached for participants' information and relevant follow-up action.

This Joint Conference is brought to you by the Singapore Ministry of Transport and the Singapore Customs.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SINGAPORE

1. **Arrival and Entry Formalities**

- 1.1 Visitors to Singapore will require passports valid for a minimum of 6 months to enter Singapore. More information on entry requirements can be found at:
<http://www.ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=95>
- 1.2 Participants are responsible for arranging their own visas if required. For details on visa requirements and types of visas, please visit:
<http://www.ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=96&secid=94>
http://www.ica.gov.sg/services_centre_overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165

2. **Transport**

- 2.1 At Singapore Changi Airport, taxis are available at the taxi stands at the Arrival levels of each Terminal. The journey to the city is estimated to cost around S\$35 and takes about half an hour on average. Fares are metered and there is additional airport surcharge for all trips originating from the airport. There are also peak hour and midnight surcharges.

S\$5 airport surcharge - 5.00pm to 12.00am (Fridays to Sundays)

S\$3 airport surcharge - all other times

Midnight surcharge of 50% of final metered fare - 12.00am to 6.00am (daily)

- 2.2 Taxis provide comfortable travel at a reasonable cost. They can be flagged down 24 hours a day along most roads. Taxi stands can also be found outside most major shopping malls and hotels. For more information on taxi fare and charges, please visit: <http://taxisingapore.com/taxi-fare/>
- 2.3 Transport on public buses or on the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) is extremely affordable. The network covers extensive areas of Singapore. For details:
<http://www.publictransport.sg/publish/ptp/en.html>
http://www.smrt.com.sg/trains/network_map.asp
<http://www.transitlink.com.sg/index.html> (click on *Public Transport Journey Planner*)
- 2.4 Free Singapore maps are available at the airport and at the concierge of most hotels. For online maps of Singapore, go to: <http://www.map.gov.sg/StreetMap/>

3. **Climate**

Singapore is known for its hot and humid weather, with little variation throughout the year. The average daytime temperature is 31°C (88°F), dropping to around 24°C (75°F) in the evenings. Thunderstorms happen frequently for most of the year with more rain expected in December and January.

4. **People, Language, Religion**

Singapore's population of five million is about 74.1% Chinese, 13.4% Malays, 9.2% Indians, and 3.3% Other races.

Malay, Mandarin, Tamil, and English are the 4 official languages in Singapore. English is the language of business and administration, and is widely spoken and understood. Most Singaporeans are bilingual, and speak their mother tongue as well as English.

With its ethnic mix comes a diverse set of religions. The main religions are Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Taoism, and Hinduism.

5. **Currency**

The currency used in Singapore is the Singapore dollar (S\$). Currency exchange services can be found at the Singapore Changi Airport and at most shopping centres and hotels. Approximate exchange rates for the Euro and US Dollar are as follows:

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|----------|---|----------|
| EUR 1.00 | = | SGD 1.65 |
| USD 1.00 | = | SGD 1.25 |

6. **Credit/Charge Cards**

Major cards are widely accepted by establishments in Singapore. Should any shop insist on adding a surcharge, you may wish to contact the respective card company to report the errant shop-owner.

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|------------------|-----------------------|
| American Express | 6392 2020 |
| Diners | 6294 4422 / 6292 7055 |
| Mastercard | 6533 2888 |
| Visa | 1800 345 1345 |

7. **Electricity and Water Supply**

Singapore voltage is 220-240 volts AC, 50 cycles per second. The power plugs used are of the three-pin, square-shaped type shown below:



It is safe to drink water straight from the tap in Singapore. However for those who prefer bottled mineral water, local supermarkets and convenience stores usually carry a sizeable selection.

8. **Telephone Services**

International Dialling Code

The International Dialling Code for Singapore is +65.

Mobile Services

Mobile phone networks in Singapore are GSM 900/1800 and CDMA. You may wish to check with your mobile phone operator on auto roam services available in Singapore.

Public phones can be found across the island. These come in the form of coin-operated pay phones (10 Singapore cents for a local 3-minute call), card phones operated by phone cards in denominations of S\$3, S\$5, S\$10, S\$20 and S\$50, and credit card phones. Phone cards are available at post offices and from most convenience stores.

9. **Internet**

Broadband and wireless internet services are available in all major hotels. Free wireless internet is also available in most shopping centres and public buildings in the city. For a comprehensive list of locations, please check :

<http://www.ida.gov.sg/Programmes/20061027174147.aspx?getPagetype=36>

10. **Tipping**

Tipping is not a common practice in Singapore as most hotels and restaurants include a 10% service charge in the final bill. While tipping is not expected, it is appreciated, be it in restaurants where there is no service charge, or when good service is provided.

11. **Smoking**

Smoking is prohibited in air-conditioned areas (such as shopping centres, restaurants, entertainment outlets, and cinemas), in all forms of public transport, in public enclosed areas, in all public eateries, and within a five-metre radius from most building entrances, except where smoking areas have been clearly designated. A maximum fine of S\$1,000 may be imposed on first-time offenders.

12. **Medical Facilities and Emergencies**

Pharmacies can be found at most supermarkets, department stores, and shopping centres. Registered pharmacists generally work from 0900 hours to 1800 hours. In case of emergency, there are 24-hour Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments located in the government hospitals. Emergency numbers are as listed below:

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|-------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Police: | 999 | Police Hotline: | 6225 0000 |
| Ambulance: | 995 | Ambulance (non-emergency): | 1777 |

Fire Brigade: 995

13 Time Zone

Singapore is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+8).

14. Goods and Services Tax (GST) Tourist Refund Scheme

Visitors to Singapore may claim a refund of GST paid on their purchases, if departing from Changi Airport. For more information on GST refunds under the Tourist Refund Scheme please visit:

<http://www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/trav/Tourist+Refund+Scheme.htm>

15. Tourist Information

Further tourist information can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.stb.com.sg>

<http://www.yoursingapore.com>

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