60th CONFERENCE OF
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ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS

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AGENDA ITEM 7:   AVIATION AND ENVIRONMENT

AIRPORTS EFFORTS FOR NET ZERO CARBON EMISSION GOAL

Presented by Airports Council International

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This paper provides updates on three ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East initiatives, Airport Carbon Accreditation, Net Zero Roadmap: Decarbonise Your Airport Programme and Green Airports Recognition. These initiatives guide airports towards sustainable energy and net zero carbon emissions by providing clear pathways, international certification, and best practices sharing, helping the region's airports contribute to the global net zero carbon emission goal.

AIRPORTS EFFORTS FOR NET ZERO CARBON EMISSION GOAL

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The aviation industry currently contributes approximately 2% of global CO_2 emissions, with more impact when accounting for other climate factors. Airports are actively implementing sustainable mitigation measures, such as transitioning to renewable energy sources and adopting advanced carbon management systems, to mitigate their climate impact. These efforts are crucial in the broader context of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

1.2   In the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions, there are already 32 States that have pledged carbon neutral and net zero carbon emissions goals through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement. While commitments are increasing, not all airports have publicly available or detailed roadmaps outlining their pathways to net zero carbon emissions.

1.3   ACI APAC & MID supports decarbonisation through Net Zero Roadmap: Decarbonise Your Airport Programme, Airport Carbon Accreditation, and Green Airports Recognition. 115 airports in the region are certified under Airport Carbon Accreditation, while 30 of these airports have already reached the maximum level or are on the way to doing so (L4 up to L5). Moreover, Green Airports Recognition 2025: Sustainable Energy at Airports has recorded its highest-ever number of submissions, reflecting overwhelming environmental sustainability efforts across the industry.

2.   DISCUSSION

Airports Carbon Accreditation

2.1   The global airport sector's flagship voluntary recognition programme, Airport Carbon Accreditation, provides a unique common framework and tool for active carbon management at airports with measurable results. As of June, more than 644 airports worldwide have been accredited, representing over 55% of global air traffic. This includes 115 airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, covering 33.0% of the region's traffic. The Airport Carbon Accreditation programme plays a vital role in guiding airports toward progressively higher levels of carbon management and transparency.

Net Zero Roadmap: Decarbonise Your Airport' Programme

2.2   Building on this foundation, ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East launched Net Zero Roadmap: Decarbonise Your Airport Programme to further support airports in the region in their journey toward net zero carbon emissions. This strategic programme equips airports with a detailed pathway to assess current carbon emissions, identify areas for intervention, implement mitigation measures, and plan for capital investments. It also provides guidance on attaining higher Airport Carbon Accreditation levels and connects airports with potential financial institutions for possible funding to net zero mitigation measures. In 2025, two airports in the Middle East and one in the Asia-Pacific region were selected to pilot the Net Zero Roadmap, setting the stage for a full regional rollout by 2026. The synergy between Airport Carbon Accreditation and the Net Zero Roadmap underscores a comprehensive and actionable approach to decarbonizing airport operations towards net zero across the region.

Green Airports Recognition 2025: Sustainable Energy at Airports

2.3   The Green Airports Recognition aims to promote environmental best practices to minimise aviation's impact on the environment and recognise airport members who have outstanding accomplishments in their environmental projects.

2.4   Being main infrastructure of overall aviation sector, airports are in a unique position to facilitate huge effort of climate change mitigation. The Green Airports Recognition GAR 2025:

Sustainable Energy at Airports received a record breaking 39 submissions, marking a significant momentum that reflects airports' strong and growing commitment to sustainable energy management. Airports' initiative features a range of Solar Power Generation, Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) Procurement, Sustainable Ground Operations, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) projects, Net Zero Strategies, Green and Zero Energy Buildings, and Energy Optimization Initiatives. A publication serves to inspire airports to contribute to global net zero objectives and to promote the wider adoption of sustainable energy management practices across the aviation sector can be downloaded here.

2.5   These programs assist airports in reducing their carbon emissions by offering a clear pathway (Net Zero Roadmap), verifying progress with global certification (Airport Carbon Accreditation), and sharing best practices to inspire others (Green Airports Recognition), plays an important part in advancing the region's contribution to the global net zero carbon goal.

3.   ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1   The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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