



Unfurling the Wings of Economic Growth

Raymond Lim
Minister For Transport/
2nd Minister For Foreign Affairs
Singapore



Introduction

- Aviation is proven to be a key driver of modern economy.
 - *Clear relationship between accessibility and prosperity*
 - *Indispensable mode of transport to global trade, commerce and tourism*
- Yet international air travel is still highly regulated by restrictive bilateral agreements.

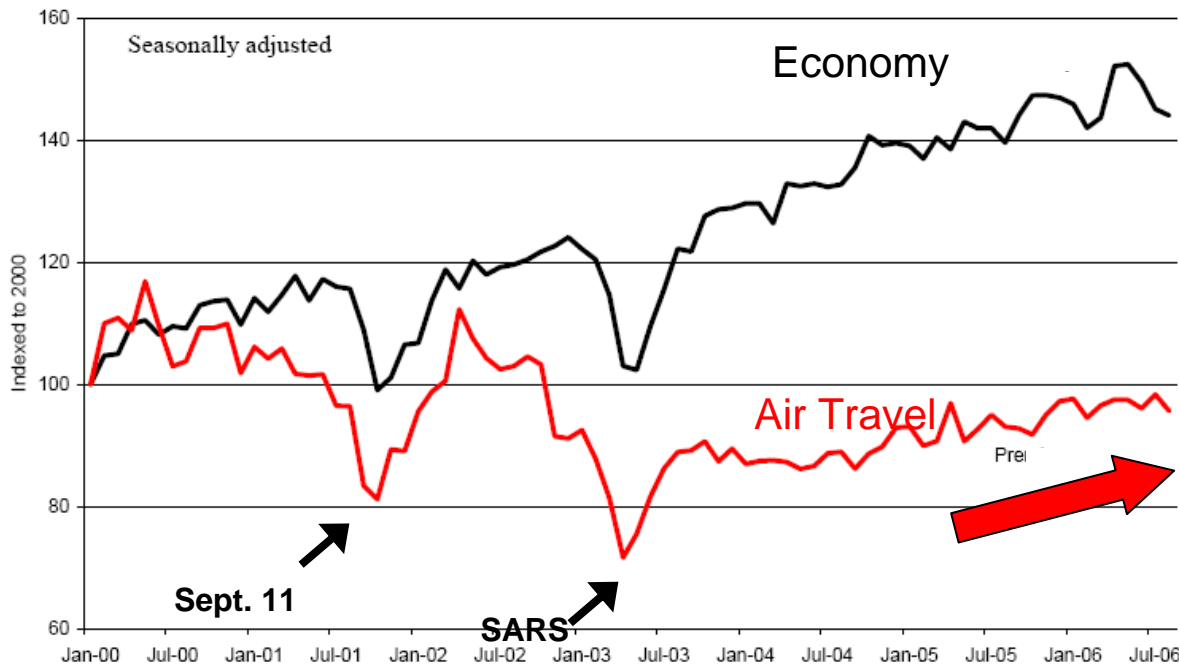
State of Air Services Liberalization within APEC Economies

- The 1994 Bogor Goals remain relevant today but we are in danger of not achieving them in time.
- APEC's Action Plan for Air Services Liberalization should have clearly-defined deliverables with a definite timeframe.

State of Air Services Liberalization within APEC Economies

- Signs of encouraging developments elsewhere:
 - *2001: The Multilateral Agreement on the Liberalization of International Air Transport (MALIAT)*
 - *2006: Canada's new international air policy (Blue Sky)*
 - *2007: Progress in EU-US Open Skies discussions*
 - *2008 and beyond: ASEAN roadmap for air services liberalization and cooperation with key dialogue partners*

Driving Forces in Favour of Liberalization in the Asia-Pacific



■ Robust economic growth drives demand for air travel.

Driving Forces in Favour of Liberalization in the Asia-Pacific

- Proliferation of Low Cost Carriers is consistent with the phenomenon in Europe.

Driving Forces in Favour of Liberalization in the Asia-Pacific

- Advances in aircraft technology create new business opportunities for airlines and more choices for travelers.

The 550-seater
Airbus 380

The ultra-long
range Boeing 787

Driving Forces in Favour of Liberalization in the Asia-Pacific

- Investing in new infrastructure ahead of demand lays the foundation for future economic growth.

Conclusion

- Potential of air transport sector in Asia-Pacific is promising.
- It is important for the pace of liberalization to keep up with traffic demand in order to unleash Asia-Pacific's potential.