



Dubai soars to success as passenger traffic increases

Dubai International Airport sees 9% increase in 2008 Passengers increase in Q1 2009 Cargo goes up by 9% in 2008

(24 April 2009) Dubai is continuing to see an **increase in passenger traffic** despite the current global economic downturn, with Dubai International Airport recording a **growth in passengers** in the first quarter of 2009. This, the Middle East's busiest hub, witnessed **over 9.5 million** passengers in Q1, an increase of two per cent compared to the same period in 2008. January was the busiest month with 3.3 million passengers, a year-on-year increase of six per cent.

And, this increase in passengers has also been reported throughout 2008, with the airport handling **37.44 million passengers** over the twelve month period, representing a **year-on-year growth of nine per cent**. These figures demonstrate Dubai International Airport's position as the only airport among the world's top ten busiest to show positive growth in the last quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009. That the airport continues to register significant growth is a positive indicator for the tourism and travel industry worldwide.

At the same time, **cargo traffic at the Dubai Cargo Gateway also increased by over nine per cent** to **1,824,991 tonnes in 2008**, the equivalent of around 37,000 juggernaut lorries. And, with its newly opened **Mega Cargo Terminal** earlier this year, Dubai Cargo Gateway now has a total handling capacity of 2.7 million tonnes per year.

The first quarter of this year saw **five new international carriers**, including Europe's Air Atlanta, added to Dubai's growing portfolio of airlines. This addition means that Dubai is more accessible than ever with Dubai International Airport now served by **125 airlines** flying to over **200 destinations** across six continents.

Dubai is also taking steps to manage the current economic climate by providing a more affordable offering. Therefore Dubai has announced that its **first low cost airline, flydubai**, will launch later this year serving a 4 hour flying radius from Dubai International Airport's newly modernised **Terminal 2**. This follows the opening of the Airport's Terminal 3 in the autumn of 2008 - occupied by Emirates, Terminal 3 is launching in phases starting with flights to the Americas and GCC destinations, and then extending to other destinations. Once fully operational, **Emirates Terminal 3** will have a capacity for 43 million passengers.



Ian Scott, UK & Ireland director of The Government of Dubai, Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, comments: *“Despite the current global economic climate people are continuing to travel. Dubai has seen a healthy increase in passenger traffic throughout 2008 and the start of 2009, and this is forecast to continue throughout the rest of this year. This growth reaffirms Dubai’s position as a leading international hub for leisure and business travel, with Dubai International Airport the only international airport world-wide to register positive growth during the last quarter of 2008. Dubai’s pioneering vision is clearly demonstrated across the aviation sector, and Dubai International Airport’s growth over the last few months highlights the emirate’s position as a major contributor to growth in the region.”*

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