

MEDIA RELEASE | ATRS

Atlanta, Oslo and Hong Kong Airports Retained Their Titles as the Most Efficient Airports

Last year top airports i.e. Atlanta, Oslo and Hong Kong airports managed to retain their titles as the most efficient airports in their respective continents, according to the 10th annual Global Airport Performance Benchmarking Report released by the Air Transport Research Society (ATRS). In addition, Copenhagen airport, which was the last year runner-up in Europe, joins Oslo as a co-winner with Oslo as the most efficient European airport title this year. Copenhagen managed to improve its efficiency substantially by cutting total operating cost of about 6.4%, notably a big savings came from the non-personnel expenses of 17.6% (based on 2009 financial year result).

Sydney lays claim to the title of most efficient airport in the Oceania region. On the other hand, Geneva consecutively won the most efficient European airport in the category of less than 15 million passengers.

Other top performers in North America include Reno, Nashville, Minneapolis and Charlotte Douglas International airport. Among the European airports, Athens jumped to forth after Geneva from sixth, recorded an 11.3% improvement in its efficiency performance compared with last year. Other top performers in Europe include Keflavik Airport in Iceland, Brussels, and Lisbon. In Asia, Singapore is the runner-up for most efficient airport, followed by Guangzhou which recorded a huge improvement in efficiency of 31.9% from last year. Christchurch was named the most cost competitive airport in Oceania.

ATRS, the world's leading academic society in air transport field, measure and compare the operating/managerial efficiency and cost competitiveness of 156 airports and 19 airport groups in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Oceania. The Global Airport Benchmarking Task Force includes 13 leading researchers (list available from www.atrsworld.org) from Asia, Europe, North America and Australia, and is led by Professor Tae H. Oum of Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia, ATRS president and Coordinator for the Task Force.

“This airport benchmarking report provides a comprehensive and unbiased evaluation of airport performance around the globe,” says Oum. “With increasing competition in air transport markets worldwide, these rankings are helpful to not only the airports and airlines, but also to governments, consultants, institutional investors, researchers and graduate students.”

According to the report, revenue from non-aeronautical has become increasingly

important amid the rising competition among the airports. The revenue from non-aeronautical source accounted for more than 50% of the airports included in the study. "Airports with a larger share of non-aeronautical revenue including commercial revenue achieve higher efficiency and thus, able to offer lower fees to airlines for aircraft landings, passenger terminal charges," says Oum, who cites parking, office rentals, retail activity and real estate development as some of the areas where airports can be successful at supplementing air transport revenues.

The ATRS Airport Benchmarking Report also provides detailed comparisons of landing fees for 156 airports and 19 airport groups around the world.

The Air Transport Research Society now in its 15th year, was established to enhance research capability for multi-national and multi-disciplinary issues on air transportation, and to foster interaction with international and national institutions which deal with policy, management strategy and/or infrastructure issues concerning global aviation. It initiated the annual global airport performance benchmarking project in year 2000. For more information, visit www.atrsworld.org.