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Africa

Nigeria Builds Airport Weather Observatory

Nigeria finished construction Sept. 20 of a modern weather meteorological observatory built by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency at Nnamdi Azikiwe International.

The new observatory is being constructed because new buildings and structures have interfered with the old equipment's ability to give reliable reading of the weather on the runway.

Tanzania Needs \$55 Million For Airport

Construction of Terminal Three and expansion of Terminal Two at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania has stalled due to lack of \$55 million.

Close to \$30 million is for compensating people living around the airport who are required to vacate to pave way for construction of Terminal Three.

Upcoming Events

14th Annual Central Europe/U.S./Canada Airport Issues Conference... Athens, Greece, Oct. 28-30, 2008

Third Annual AAAE/IAAE International Airport Geographic Information Systems Conference... Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Nov. 11-13, 2008

U.S./Pacific Airport Issues Conference... Tamuning, Guam, Dec. 9-11, 2008

Tanzania Airports Authority said it also requires \$25 million for expansion of the congested Terminal Two.

Terminal Two at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Airport was designed for 1 million passengers a year and currently handles 1.5 million.

ExecuJet South Africa To Move To New Facility

ExecuJet South Africa, an aviation services company, will move into its new facility at Cape Town International in October.

A \$31 million aviation and business center at Cape Town International Airport is being developed by a local businessman with ExecuJet South Africa as the anchor tenant. The final phase is due for completion in early 2009.

Improvements To Liberian Airports Get Underway

Liberia's Daniel Oduber International Airport has begun a series of construction projects that include scraping the current runway and installing a new layer of asphalt over the foundation.

According to estimates, the project will take a month, provided the weather cooperates, and is expected to cost \$575,000.

The terminal has undergone additional construction work for the past month and a half, including the building of platforms for aircraft parking.

Work has also begun at the airport servicing the beach community of Nosara, which is expected to be done in 70 days. Improvements there include construction of a new runway, expansion of the areas for aircraft to

turn around, placement of a new peripheral fence and new runway paint.

Zimbabwe Starts Airport Modernization Program

The Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe (CAAZ) has embarked on a modernization program at the country's eight airports.

CAAZ recently acquired state-of-the-art fire trucks and is completing other projects, including the installation of landing and navigation equipment and the installation of a VHF omni-directional radio range for aircraft.

The aviation authority is also looking to upgrade the instrument landing system at Harare International at the end of November and is embarking on an upgrade of security and passenger processing systems upgrading alongside airport infrastructure development.

Asia

Gia Lam Airport To Serve Short-Range Flights

Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport will serve both military and civil aviation activities, according to a master plan released by the Vietnam Civil Aviation Administration Sept. 25.

According to the plan Gia Lam will host flights from Hanoi to Dien Bien Phu, Vinh and Na San.

To serve civil aviation, the airport will be upgraded at a cost of \$17.8 million.

After the upgrade, the airport will meet International Civil Aviation

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Organization standards and standards for military airports. The airport will be able to handle ATR 82, Fokker 70 and similar regional aircraft.

It is estimated that by 2015, Gia Lam Airport will be able to accommodate 162,000 passengers a year and 290,000 by 2025.

The airport is being used for training activities and helicopter taxi flights for tourists.

Macau International Plans \$625 Million Expansion

Macau, China, International is planning to expand its facilities with an investment estimated at \$625 million.

In the last two years the island's aviation sector grew 300 percent as a result of tourist and real estate development in Macau, one of the two special administrative regions of China, the other being Hong Kong.

In the first eight months of the year Macau International was used by 3.58 million passengers, a fall of 2 percent against the same period of 2007. In 2007, 5.5 million passengers used the airport.

The airport, which has a capacity of 6 million passengers a year, receives scheduled flights of around 20 regional airlines.

Dammam Airport To Become Business City

Plans are being prepared to develop King Fahd International Airport in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, into a full-fledged business city with advanced facilities to attract more foreign airlines and passengers.

The project includes construction of hotels, conference halls, an aviation training institute and aircraft maintenance industries as well as playgrounds and parking areas.

The future plan would focus on increasing facilities and services to passengers and providing more investment opportunities for private companies, including real estate developers.

Japanese Airports Install Mobile Check-In

Three major international airports in Japan have installed boarding gates that accept the 2-D barcode boarding pass, as part of their efforts to promote paperless systems at airports.

All 150 boarding gates at Narita International in Chiba Prefecture began accepting the 2-D barcode boarding pass Sept. 17. Central Japan International in Aichi Prefecture and Kansai International in Osaka Prefecture also are introducing the new boarding gates.

The 2-D barcode can store a larger volume of data than a conventional one. With the new boarding gates, passengers with the 2-D barcode pass will not have to stop at check-in counters to get boarding passes, if they print out 2-D barcode boarding passes purchased on the internet.

Abu Dhabi Int'l Receives Full UAE Certification

Abu Dhabi Airports Co.(ADAC) announced that its Abu Dhabi International Airport has been issued full certification by the country's General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA). The certification is in accordance with UAE federal civil aviation regulations, based on the standards of the convention on international civil aviation.

The license is issued by the GCAA once an airport fulfills internationally established federal civil aviation requirements, set by International Civil Aviation Organization.

Beijing Int'l's Profit Drops Because Of New Terminal

Beijing Capital International Airport Co., operator of China's busiest airport, said profits from the first half of the year fell 90 percent on costs from a new terminal and flight cancellations caused by natural disasters.

Net income plunged to \$8.2 million and sales rose 21 percent to \$292 million.

Beijing airport's operating costs more than doubled because the facility in February opened the world's biggest terminal to cope with expected long-term travel growth. Passenger numbers in the first half of the year saw little change from a year earlier, after snowstorms in February and an earthquake in May forced carriers to scrap flights nationwide.

Flights to Beijing were capped in July to help the airport cope with Olympic traffic. The aviation regulator also ordered cuts in flights ahead of the opening of the new terminal to ease the start of services.

Iran's Airports To Be Classified, Standardized

Plans are underway to classify and standardize airports across Iran, said the deputy head for operational affairs of Iran's Airports Company.

Systems, equipment and facilities will be provided to the airports to offer services in compliance with international standards.

Officials stressed the need to

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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REPORT

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upgrade the level of services in conformity with international standards and that a plan to standardize the airports is being implemented.

Islamabad Int'l Named After Benazir Bhutto

Islamabad International Airport has been renamed after former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as a tribute to her services rendered for the nation.

Europe

Dutch Firm Wants To Buy Glasgow Airport

The firm that owns Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam has confirmed a "definite interest" in buying Glasgow Airport if it is put up for sale.

It is the second company, following Manchester Airport Group, to register an interest in Glasgow Airport, which faces being sold off by owner BAA.

The Competition Commission, which was highly critical of BAA in its preliminary report, will make a final ruling on the airports issue next year.

Potential buyers have valued Glasgow Airport at close to a billion dollars, although BAA believes the asset is worth more than \$1.7 billion.

Floating Airport In North Sea Proposed

Dutch engineering company Royal Haskoning has unveiled a proposal for a floating airport in the North Sea, 32 miles off the Dutch coast.

The airport would include floating and rotating runways and passengers would be transferred to the mainland on shuttle trains through tunnels. Royal Haskoning, which has been working with dredging company Van Oord on the proposal, said the plan would reduce the pressure on Schiphol Airport and cut noise and air pollution.

The proposal also includes plans to create 96 square miles of "new land" off the coast of Holland. The project

would take about 25 years to complete and use around 3.8 billion cubic meters of sand from the North Sea.

U.K. Airports To Offer Tea, Biscuits To Arrivals

Every traveler flying into Britain could soon be offered a free cup of tea and biscuits (cookies) at the airport, in efforts to make the country more cheerful for tourists and nationals alike.

The idea was proposed by Mark Price, managing director of U.K.-based food store Waitrose. He has persuaded airport operator BAA to run a week-long trial in November at London Heathrow's Terminal 5, offering 5,000 biscuits and cups of tea to travelers in the arrivals hall.

The hope is that all travelers, whether arriving in Britain on holiday or returning home, will find thoughts of flight delays and other world problems more bearable if welcomed with a free cup of breakfast tea and a plate of biscuits. Tourism agency Visit Britain also has agreed to support the campaign, which could see all airports across the U.K. offering the treat.

Prague Airport Authority To Invest Heavily

Prague Airport Authority is making significant investments in the areas that increase the value of Prague airport, including securing the land and buildings required for expanding the capacity, improving the infrastructure and increasing the level of services provided.

Prague Airport Authority secured the land located within the South complex, which is necessary for extending the wastewater treatment plant and sewage treatment plant. This allows for the development of the entire south complex.

The reconstruction of Terminal 3 is also taking place in this section of the airport. The south complex is designed mainly for the dynamically developing general aviation segment, as well as housing the so-called hangar zone.

Budapest Finishes Security System Installation

Budapest Ferihegy International has completed installation of new passenger security systems, speeding the passenger security screening process and cutting or eliminating lines at the airport.

Officials claim the new X-ray machines and archway metal detectors (AMDs) have increased the system's throughput by more than 25 percent.

The airport purchased 12 state-of-the-art X-ray machines and AMDs from Smiths Heimann for \$5.1 million. The new systems now in use at Ferihegy are currently rated as some of the most sophisticated in Europe, since these models only appeared on the market last year.

Computer Glitch To Blame For Ireland Airport Delays

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) has published its report, about the system malfunction that caused long delays at Dublin Airport earlier this year.

According to the report a double fault in the computer system led to the failure. A number of recommendations have been made by the system supplier Thales ATM, and IAA has said it is confident that they will minimize the effect of any future problems.

Thousands of customers were left stranded and hundreds of flights were delayed over a number of days in July when the air traffic management system failed.

Amsterdam Int'l Voted Best Airport In Europe

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol has been voted Best Airport in Europe, by leading British magazine *Business Traveller*.

Ron Louwerse, director safety, security and environment of Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, received

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the award during the Business Traveler Awards 2008 ceremony held in London. The other nominees were Munich Airport, Zurich Airport and Copenhagen Airport.

The British market is the most important market for Schiphol after the home market the Netherlands. During the first half of 2008 alone, more than 1.8 million British passengers arrived at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. Half of these passengers arriving at Schiphol disembarked, while the other half transferred to another flight.

Oceania

Fiji To Issue Airport Expansion Tender

Airports Fiji Limited (AFL) is evaluating 13 expressions of interest (EOIs) and will issue tenders in the fourth quarter of this year for an expanded arrivals area at Nadi International Airport.

AFL will add 584 square meters in the arrivals landing lounge and 282 square meters in the arrivals baggage hall.

Existing concessionaires Motibhai and Tappoo have submitted EOIs, as did two businesses from Australia, one from New Zealand, one from India and one representing an international brand.

Sydney Airport Releases Master Plan

By 2029, Sydney Airport is expected to handle more passengers than London's Heathrow Airport does today, but the airport insisted there is no need for a second major airport for the city for at least the next two decades.

The airport today released a preliminary draft master plan for the next 20 years of activity and development at Australia's most important aviation hub.

The airport estimates 78.9 million passengers will fly into and out of the

airport in 2029. The airport's last long-term forecast about 68 million passengers would use the facility by 2023-24.

But because of the increasing use of larger aircraft, such as the A380, which can carry more passengers, the airport believes it will be able to operate within existing government controls, such as the 80 flights per hour cap and the 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew.

The preliminary draft master plan also envisages no new runways, no changes to existing flight paths and no alterations to current arrangements for regional services.

Auckland Airport Sees Profit Of \$113 Million

Auckland International Airport has posted a 3.3 percent rise in full year net profit to \$113 million, due in part to strong domestic passenger growth from a more competitive local aviation scene.

The airport said the result was achieved despite a slight softening in the growth of international passenger numbers, increased capital costs resulting from the company's investment program and significant one-off costs and business disruption associated with ownership interest and takeover activity.

The company incurred takeover-related costs of \$9.58 million during the year.

Increased competition in the domestic aviation sector was important to the result, but better retail and parking income also helped.

Upgrades Underway At Jolo, Sanga-Sanga

The Philippine airports of Jolo in the province of Sulu and Sanga-Sanga in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, now are undergoing rehabilitation and upgrades under a \$9.2 million initiative jointly funded by the U.S. and Philippine governments.

The initiative aims to increase capacity to enable the airports to

handle larger aircraft. The projects are due to be completed in the second quarter of next year.

Manuel Jamonir, infrastructure specialist of the U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, said the projects include upgrades of the passenger terminals, including new baggage conveyors and X-ray machines, as well as the expansion and widening of the existing runways.

\$250 Million Canberra Airport Terminal On Hold

Canberra International Airport said its \$250 million terminal project is on hold because of uncertainty generated by the global financial crisis.

The airport announced plans last December to build a new three-story terminal with extra check-in counters, air bridges and car parking.

Canberra managing director Stephen Byron said the project was first put on hold during May and June because of rising oil prices. According to Byron, finance to build the terminal has been approved but there could be problems with rolling over debt.

South America

Venezuela Cuts Delta, Continental Flights

Venezuela slashed the number of flights of U.S. airlines to the South American country, effective Sept. 28.

Venezuela's National Civil Aviation Institute (NCAI) informed American, Continental and Delta Air Lines of the decision.

The move will balance the number of flights by U.S. and Venezuelan airlines between the two countries, NCAI president Jose Martinez Bravo said, without specifying how many flights will be cut.

NCAI's decision followed a warning issued by U.S. aviation officials to American travelers that safe air travel to Venezuela is doubtful.

Back Page Briefs

Africa

The Ghana minister of aviation has advised staff of Takoradi Airport and those in the aviation industry to prepare for an unprecedented volume of air traffic expected in the country due to an oil find in the western region.

The general aviation terminal of Murtala Muhammed airport in Nigeria has finished upgrades and reopened with local carrier Arik Air. The terminal had been dominant for several years until Arik Air began flights.

Kaduna Airport in central Nigeria is undergoing upgrades to handle international flights and to attract tourists to that part of the country. The government also is partnering with the state to ensure that the airport can handle cargo.

Asia

Fraport AG is now part of a German-Chinese joint-venture, Xi'an Xianyang International Airport Co., the first foreign airport operator to invest in a non-listed airport in China. Fraport is convinced of the sustainable development potential of China's aviation market and is currently negotiating other projects in China.

Penang International Airport in Malaysia is the second airport after Kuala Lumpur International in Sepang to be recognized as a green facility. The airport operator, Malaysia Airports Holdings, is taking steps to make all airports under its management environmentally friendly.

Flights by Delta, Air Canada and Ethiopian Airlines to Israel are to begin using a pilot identification system known as Code Positive to prevent terror attacks using airplanes. The system allows ground systems to identify aircraft that have requested

entry to its airspace by means of a secret code issued to pilots.

A new airport has opened in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, bearing a faint resemblance to Chek Lap Kok airport in Hong Kong. The airport can handle up to 7 million visitors a year, or twice the expected number for 2007 and cost about \$139 million to construct.

By 2009, two years after it opened, officials of Suvarnabhumi Airport in Thailand hope the airport will become one of the world's top 10 international airports in terms of outstanding service. The airport says it has handled more than 80 million passengers since 2006.

Tokyo's Haneda airport is working on a project to install solar panels on the roof and terminals. The panels will generate two megawatts a year, close to 10 percent of the power needed to run the airport.

Iran is planning to spend \$113 million on improvements for the country's airports, including new systems, equipment and facilities to bring them up to international standards. Four new airports will be built in Boroujerd, Abadeh, Saqqez and Torbat-e Heidarieh.

By 2020 Vietnam is programmed to have a network of 26 airports, including 10 international facilities. The plan, which includes expanding existing airports and building new ones, is expected to cost \$13 billion, according to an aviation investment transport development plan by the Ministry of Communications and Transport.

Europe

The Baneasa airport in Bucharest will be closed until Oct. 12 for runway maintenance. The five low-cost airlines operating out of the airport have transferred their flights to

Henri Coanda airport, the city's main facility north of Bucharest.

AIG, the U.S. insurance group, has agreed to sell part of its minority interest in London's City Airport to its joint-venture partner. AIG will sell a 25 percent stake in the airport, the fastest-growing in Britain, for about \$460 million to Global Infrastructure Partners.

Kosovo's only commercial service airport closed the summer season with record profits and passengers. The number of passengers so far this year totaled 850,000 and net profit during the first eight months was \$7.7 million.

North America

Advent International had acquired Aeropuertos Dominicanos Siglo XXI SA ("Aerodom"), the leading airport group in the Dominican Republic and one of the largest airport operators in Central America and the Caribbean, from the Hazoury Group, Vancouver Airport Services and other local investors.

In October, Costa Rica's Daniel Oduber International is expected to have new radar operational. The equipment being installed shows readings from five antennas on a single screen. The upgrades are part of a scheduled infrastructure improvements for the airport, which is set to be remodeled once a bidder is chosen to construct a new terminal there.

Oceania

Work has begun on a \$1.2 million makeover of Masterton, New Zealand, airport to have it upgraded for the first Air New Zealand direct flight with Auckland in February. The airport is resealing the runway as well as building a new terminal. The improved links are expected to boost business and tourism in the region.