



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

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CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION ESTABLISHES “SISTER AIRPORT” PARTNERSHIPS WITH MAJOR AIRPORTS IN CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA

Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino meets with airport executives, airline CEOs and express rail corporations during working trip in Asia

Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino signed four “Sister Airport” agreements with officials from the international airports of Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Incheon during a working trip to Asia, March 22-31.

The “Sister Airport” agreements between the CDA and Beijing Capital International Airport Company, Shanghai Airport Authority, Airport Authority Hong Kong and Incheon International Airport Corporation formally outline the process for the airports to share technical, commercial and environmental best practices. These agreements will proceed with the establishment of joint working groups to cooperate on a wide range of areas including airport management, customer service, construction, planning, operations, information technology and sustainable development.

“On behalf of Mayor Richard M. Daley, we are honored and proud to establish these new partnerships with Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Incheon International Airports,” said Commissioner Andolino. “These airports are among the world’s busiest in international passenger and cargo operations and we believe there is much to be gained by working together to advance our respective airports.”

In Beijing, Commissioner Andolino signed the “Sister Airport” agreement with Dr. Dong Zhiyi, President and CEO of Capital Airports Holding Company. During the signing ceremony, Dr. Dong Zhiyi stated, “Over the years the China-Chicago relationship has been strengthening through dialogues and cooperation in economy, trade and culture. As a result, the bond between two world-renowned airport operators would reinforce the collaboration of both cities in terms of regional development, economic and cultural exchanges. In addition, the practice of modernization, sustainability and green projects at O’Hare will be beneficial to Beijing’s future airport planning and construction.”

Beijing Capital International Airport and Chicago O’Hare International Airport ranked as the world’s second and third busiest airports respectively in 2010.

While in Beijing, Andolino met with, Director General, He Ning, of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce for the People’s Republic to discuss efforts to expand the growing Asia-pacific aviation market through increased passenger service by China’s National Carriers and Chicago’s interest in establishing express rail service between O’Hare and downtown. Andolino also met with executives from Air China to discuss increasing its passenger service to Chicago.

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In Shanghai, Commissioner Andolino signed the “Sister Airport,” agreement with Mr. Li De Run, President of the Shanghai Airport Authority. Andolino also met with Jianzhong Zhang, Executive Vice-President, China Eastern Airlines Co. Ltd. to discuss establishing direct passenger service to Chicago and increasing the airline’s existing freighter activity at O’Hare via China Cargo Airlines.

Commissioner Andolino signed the “Sister Airport,” agreement in Hong Kong, with Mr. Stanley Hui Hon-Chung, CEO of the Airport Authority of Hong Kong. Meetings were also arranged between Andolino and the chairman of the MTR Corporation to talk about Chicago’s interest in establishing express rail service between O’Hare and downtown. MTR operates the Airport Express railway system between the Hong Kong’s airport and its central business district.

In Incheon, South Korea, Commissioner Andolino signed the “Sister Airport,” agreement with Mr. CW Lee, President and CEO of Incheon International Airport Corporation. During her visit, Commissioner Andolino was invited by IIAC President CW Lee to attend the 1st ICAO NGAP and TRAINAIR PLUS Regional Conference hosted by Secretary General Raymond Benjamin of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Mr. Jong Hway Chung, Minister of Land Transport, Maritime Affairs (MLTM) for the Republic of Korea, and IIAC President CW Lee.

While in Incheon, Commissioner Andolino also met with officials from KORAIL, the owner and operator of the express rail connection between Incheon International Airport and downtown Seoul, to discuss Chicago’s interest in establishing airport express rail service.

Earlier in the week, CDA representatives attended the Routes Asia 2011 Conference in Incheon and discussed opportunities for increased and/or new passenger service at Chicago’s airports with several airline representatives.

Commissioner Andolino traveled to South Korea following her trip to China as part of the “Chicago-China Friendship Campaign.” The Chicago delegation visited the country to discuss business and economic opportunities with international leaders and to further Mayor Daley’s agenda to strengthen economic opportunities between Chicago and China.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O’Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago’s airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, and concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM) Version 2.0, released in November 2010. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit www.airportsgoinggreen.org.

The O’Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O’Hare’s airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

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Editor's note: Photos attached. High resolution images available upon request.



Photo 1 caption: Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino (left) and Beijing Capital Airports Holding Company President and CEO Dr. Dong Zhiyi (right) sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a "Sister Airport" agreement on March 22, 2011 in Beijing, China. Photo courtesy Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA)



Photo 2 caption: Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino (left) and Shanghai Airport Authority President Mr. Li De Run (right) sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a "Sister Airport" agreement on March 25, 2011 in Shanghai, China. Photo courtesy Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA)



Photo 3 caption: Mayor Richard M. Daley (center) congratulates Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino (left) and Airport Authority of Hong Kong Chief Officer Stanley Hui Hon-chung (right) after they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a “Sister Airport” agreement on March 29, 2011 in Hong Kong, China. Photo courtesy Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA)



Photo 4 caption: Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino (right) and Incheon International Airport Corporation President and CEO Mr. CW Lee (left) hold signed copies a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a “Sister Airport” agreement in Incheon, South Korea on March 30, 2011 in Incheon, South Korea. Photo courtesy Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA)