



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

CDA Web Alert

July 12, 2010

Chicago Welcomes Inaugural Around-the-World Cathay Pacific Freighter Flight

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) welcomed the arrival of Cathay Pacific Airways' firstever "round-the-world" cargo flight at O'Hare International Airport today. The Boeing 747-400 freighter aircraft arrived in Chicago via Anchorage from Hong Kong at approximately 1:30 p.m. and departed O'Hare at 4:50 p.m. en route to Amsterdam. From there it will fly onward to Dubai before returning to Hong Kong.

The flight from the United States to Amsterdam marks the start of Cathay Pacific Airways' firstever transatlantic service. In total, the round-the-world flight, including ground time to uplift freight, will take 44.5 hours to operate.

CDA First Deputy Commissioner Michael Boland and department representatives joined with Stephen Wong, Cathay Pacific Vice President for Cargo; Scott Mowrer, Cathay Pacific Senior Vice President Americas; and other representatives of Cathay Pacific at an event to mark the occasion. The Chicago Fire Department provided a water cannon salute when the inaugural flight touched down at O'Hare's South Cargo area. "Chicago is a great gateway for this service and we expect the flights to do quite well," said Wong. "We'll be helping businesses from throughout the Midwest get their products to markets in Europe and the Middle East."

The new route will initially operate twice weekly, on Fridays and Sundays. The round-the-world flight is an extension of Cathay Pacific's existing service to Chicago. The airline currently serves the City with eight flights per week. Cathay is increasing its Chicago-based cargo operations team by 33 percent to handle these new flights.

Cathay Pacific expects to transport significant quantities of building materials to the Middle East, including product bound for reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The airline anticipates moving computers, fabric, pharmaceuticals and livestock through Amsterdam, where there is a demand for increased cargo capacity.

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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, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. 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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