



### **AirAsia Places Investment Confidence in Growth of Myanmar Presents Fly Thru Service and Unveils “Thai AirAsia X” for Long Hauls to South Korea**

AirAsia, the World’s Best Low Cost Airline as named by Sky Trax for 5 years running (2009-2013), has placed its confidence in the economic growth of Myanmar. Both in terms of travel and investment, AirAsia has been well received by the nation and has sought to bolster its operations with Fly Thru service from Yangon and Mandalay (with connections at Don Mueang Airport) to a variety of destinations, all with single baggage checks and immigration passes. At the same time, “Thai AirAsia X” unveils to offer low fare long haul flights from Bangkok to South Korea, serviced by Airbus A330-300 planes seating 377 people; 12 business class seats and 365 economy class seats.

**Mr. Nadda Buranasiri, CEO of Thai AirAsia X**, pointed out that over the past 2 years trade and travel between Thailand and Myanmar has expanded rapidly. Myanmar and the Indochina region overall are the main markets of AirAsia and where it focuses its growth activities, from adding destinations to increasing flight frequencies, the airline is sure of the region’s capacity to grow economically with its distinct cultural allures. Presently, AirAsia flies direct from Yangon to Bangkok (FD) twice daily, Yangon to Kuala Lumpur (AK) daily and Mandalay to Bangkok (FD) daily.

“In the near future the ASEAN Economic Community, or AEC, will be formed and spur even faster growth in Myanmar. We believe that by creating a strong foundation of flight destinations, AirAsia will be able to maintain its leadership in the low fare segment in Myanmar. In the first 5 months of this year (January-May) alone, the Bangkok-Yangon route saw a passenger increase of 15% while Bangkok-Mandalay saw a 30% increase year-on-year. We expect that through our stimulation activities and marketing plan, these figures will continue to rise”.

The airline’s Fly Thru service has also been very well received after being launched in December of last year. At present, Thai AirAsia provides Fly Thru from Yangon at Don Mueang to 8 international destinations, namely; Siem Reap, Chongqing, Jakarta, Wuhan, Macau, Singapore,



Hong Kong and Ho Chi Minh, as well as to the 5 domestic destinations of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Hat Yai, Krabi and Phuket. Fly Thru also takes travelers from Mandalay via Don Mueang to Phuket and Kuala Lumpur.

AirAsia believes its Fly Thru service will serve as an answer to many of its customers, especially those wishing to travel to Myanmar, as it provides them with greater speed by allowing them to check in their baggage only once and receive it at their terminal destination as well as only to have to pass through immigration once with no need for a transit visa during connection.

**CEO of Thai AirAsia X** stated that he is immensely glad that Thai AirAsia X can play a part in strengthening the AirAsia Group by operating flights that require over 4 hours travel time from Don Mueang Airport. He remarked that the airline applies AirAsia's "Everyone Can Fly" motto to greater distances with its first route, Bangkok-Seoul (South Korea), to be available daily starting this 17 June. The flight will be serviced by a spacious Airbus A330-300 plane able to seat 377 people; 12 business class seats and 365 economy class seats.

"Over the past year, over 63,470 Myanmar travelers made their way to South Korea. Thai AirAsia X hopes to provide these travelers another choice in getting from Myanmar to South Korea via a quick connection in Don Mueang that offers not only a great price and convenience but also the opportunity to visit Thailand at the same time" Mr. Nadda pointed out.

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### **About the AirAsia Group**

AirAsia, the leading and largest low-cost carrier in Asia, services the most extensive network with 88 destinations. Within 12 years of operations, AirAsia has carried over 220 million guests and grown its fleet from just two aircraft to over 150. The airline today is proud to be a truly Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) airline with established operations based in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines servicing a network stretching across all Asean countries as well as China, India and Australia. AirAsia was named the World's Best Low Cost Airline in the annual World Airline Survey by Skytrax for five consecutive years from 2009 – 2013 and the 'World's Leading Low Cost Airline' at the 2013 World Travel Awards.

## Press Release



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