Mid-East carriers Post-Growth

Mideast carriers recorded the fastest growth in international passenger traffic, rising to 10 percent in the month of June compared to June 2009, despite the economic crisis, and industry sources agree they have the ability to attract long-haul traffic through the region. According to June’s statistics released by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on Wednesday, international passenger demand showed continued growth with passenger traffic up 9.3 percent in June compared to June of 2009. Meanwhile, cargo traffic showed 26.5 percent improvement, according to international scheduled traffic statistics for June, which continued to grow, as the industry recovered from the impact of the global financial crisis, Arab News wrote.

> **Round-About Growth**

IATA statistics show capacity increased only slightly above demand during the month, keeping load factors in line with historical highs at 79.3 percent for passenger traffic and 53.8 percent for freight. The industry continues to recover faster than expected, but with sharp regional differences. Europe is recovering at half the speed of Asian carriers, with passenger demand showing continued growth with air traffic reaching 79.8 percent for passenger traffic and 53.8 percent for freight. European carriers posted growth of 10.8 percent, comparable to the 10.9 percent recorded for May 2010. Strong growth and the industry-leading load factor of 86.6 percent are contributing to strong second quarter financial results being announced by the region’s carriers. European carriers reported 7.5 percent growth, down slightly from the 8.3 percent reported in May.

Australian carriers reported a 21.3 percent increase in traffic in June, positively impacted by activities surrounding the FIFA World Cup. The airline industry continues to recover faster than expected, but with sharp regional differences. Europe is recovering at half the speed of Asian carriers, with passenger demand showing continued growth with air traffic reaching 79.8 percent for passenger traffic and 53.8 percent for freight. European carriers posted growth of 10.8 percent, comparable to the 10.9 percent recorded for May 2010. Strong growth and the industry-leading load factor of 86.6 percent are contributing to strong second quarter financial results being announced by the region’s carriers. European carriers reported 7.5 percent growth, down slightly from the 8.3 percent reported in May.

“From 2002-3 until the end of 2009-10, TPOI has allocated $6.635 billion to flowers and plants in the global markets. Increasing Iran’s share in terms of exporting flowers and plants to Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Georgia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Georgia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Germany, Italy, France, the UAE, China, Japan, and Vietnam,” Afqahi underlined the need to adopt measures for increasing Iran’s share in terms of exporting flowers and plants.

Afqahi noted that in 2008, the global export of flowers and plants amounted to $58 billion and the export of flowers and plants in the Middle East in Tehran province reached $4.3 billion. Meanwhile, the export of flowers and plants in the Middle East in Iran province reached $1.9 billion. Meanwhile, the export of flowers and plants in the Middle East in Iran province reached $1.9 billion.

The 1st stage of Gilan’s Flower and Plant Terminal will be constructed in an area of 4,800 square meters, he said. Meanwhile, the first stage of the project will be commissioned in the next Iranian year (starting March 21). The private sector will pay $6 billion toward the project.

The terminal will be equipped with delivery halls for flowers and plants, a cold storage exhibition hall, floriculture and floristry halls, administrative and commercial offices,” he said.

Earlier, Babak Afqahi, the head of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI), said the plan to build the terminal was approved during the visit of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Gilan province, adding that the terminal will be built in three stages, IRIB reported.

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