

# Expanding worldwide network

By **USANEE SANGSINGKEO**

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**USANEE SANGSINGKEO** has been Acting President of Thai Airways International Public Company Limited since February 10, 2017 and its Executive Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Sustainable Development since October 1, 2017. She served as the Executive Vice President at Aviation Business Unit from September 5, 2015 to February 10, 2017 and as Executive Vice President of Commercial from April 25, 2017 to September 30, 2017.

On the occasion that His Excellency Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha makes his official visit to the United Kingdom, Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI) has the pleasure to welcome him and his entourage to London where THAI has served passengers between Thailand and the UK since 1973. Currently, THAI operates double daily flights from Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport to London Heathrow Airport with Airbus A380-800 and Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, serving altogether a total of 14 round trip flights per week to and from the United Kingdom.

For 45 years, THAI flights between London and Bangkok have proved highly popular for British passengers travelling to Thailand on both business and leisure. As the national carrier of the Kingdom of Thailand, THAI plays a vital role in transporting the public to Thailand and beyond to their final destinations on THAI extensive route network, contributing to a substantially increased demand for tourism to Thailand which in turn results in strong travel and hospitality industries, economic growth, and a sustainable national economy. Due to THAI's continued strength in the UK market, there is a great opportunity for THAI to expand its service to serve other destinations in the UK.

A potential for Thailand and Southeast Asia's growing aviation industry has been realized through a cooperative agreement that was signed between THAI and Rolls-Royce for the establishment of an Engine Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Centre. Built upon THAI's existing MRO capabilities and the Trent Care Network, THAI will become an Authorized Maintenance Centre (AMC) for Rolls-Royce, enabling THAI to support its growing fleet of Rolls-Royce engines for 50 of its 80 wide-body aircraft that are powered by Rolls-Royce engines. This agreement is in accordance with a Thai Government policy anticipating a readiness of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Aircraft Maintenance Centre located in U-Tapao International Airport.

THAI's MRO Campus at U-Tapao International Airport, is planned to be set up in 2022, THAI will operate this world-class facility in a joint venture with an aircraft manufacturer. The THAI MRO

Campus will elevate Thailand's standing as an aviation hub in the region and boost the economic growth and development in the EEC area. The THAI MRO Campus will be situated on an 80-acre-land, owned and invested in by the Royal Thai Navy under the rights granted by the Thailand's Treasury Department and will be operated by THAI and the joint venture partner under a 50 year-leasing-contract. In the future, it is expected that the new passenger terminal at U-Tapao Airport will serve up to 60 million passengers in the next five years. These engine and aircraft MRO projects are evidence of Thailand's growing position as a strong commercial aviation and travel-related industry in the EEC and high demand for travel to Thailand from destinations all over the world.

THAI was founded in 1960 and operates more than 1,080 round trip flights per week on domestic, regional, and intercontinental routes. For 58 years, THAI has continually provided full service to premium passengers while maintaining the highest standards of service to leisure travellers, who represent over 80 per cent of the company's total passenger transportation revenue. Currently, THAI operates flights to 32 countries, 76 cities and 77 airports, with a fleet of 103 aircraft. Currently, THAI flies to 13 cities across 10 countries in Europe which are Copenhagen, Oslo, Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich, Stockholm, London, Rome, Milan, Moscow and Vienna. THAI's network that serves 77 destinations worldwide with flight frequencies and new aircraft types that satisfy valued passengers, whereby one can travel comfortably and begin to explore the city immediately upon arrival. Passengers can enjoy excellent meals and beverages throughout the flight on board THAI's Royal Orchid Service with a comfortable and convenient journey from departure to arrival at their final destination. THAI's excellent premium class service standards have been recognized with the three prestigious Skytrax 2017 World Airline Awards that THAI received for World's Best Economy Class, World's Best Airline Lounge Spa, and Best Economy Class Onboard Catering.

It is a great pleasure and a mission for THAI to be a major contributor bringing tourists to Thailand and vice versa.

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