



**Press Release**  
**5 December 2018**

### **Mactan-Cebu International Airport named Asia Pacific Airport of the Year**

*With a remarkable growth in passengers and connectivity for the past four years, the country's friendliest resort airport joins Korea's Incheon Airport as one of the best international gateways in the region.*

**Singapore** – Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) has once again been named one of Asia's best airports. MCIA was awarded Asia Pacific Medium Airport of the Year during the CAPA Aviation Awards for Excellence in Singapore last November 8, 2018.

According to the official release by the CAPA – Center for Aviation, MCIA was selected among airports with over 10 million annual passengers for “having been the biggest standout strategically, has established itself as a leader and done the most to advance the progress of the aviation industry.”

Dubbed the Friendliest Resort Airport, MCIA became known through its unique resort positioning as a gateway to the central and southern Philippines which has a large concentration of tourist destinations. “MCIA's positioning remains true to its destination,” said Louie Ferrer, President of GMR MEGAWIDE Cebu Airport Corporation (GMCAC). “While most other airports choose modern structures made of glass and steel structures, we stayed true to our island resort identity, with Cebu being one of the world's favorite resort destinations.”

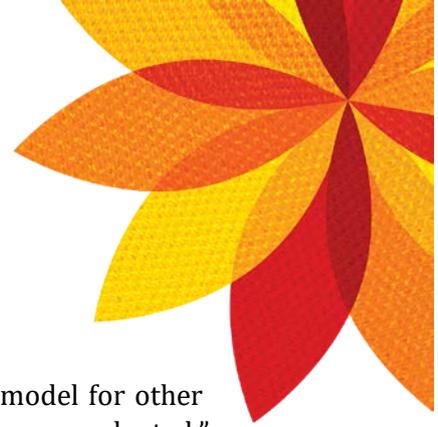
Other winners this year include Korea's celebrated Incheon International Airport as Asia Pacific Large Airport of the Year, and Malaysia's Senai International Airport as Asia Pacific Small Airport of the Year.

#### **Successful partnership**

This is the second time that MCIA was recognized by CAPA in the last four years. In 2016, MCIA was named Asia Pacific Small Airport of the Year, just two years after private developer GMCAC assumed landside operations under a 25-year Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement.

“The progress of MCIA can really be attributed to the partnership that the airport has cultivated with its community,” said Ferrer. “By focusing on strategic airline and destination marketing initiatives, and collaborating closely with stakeholders in Government and the private sector, we have been able to increase Cebu's connectivity and passenger traffic significantly.”

Meanwhile, MCIAA General Manager Steve Dicdican described the project as the model of a successful airport PPP. “The opening of the new international terminal follows a highly successful



privatization, positioning the airport for rapid growth and making MCIA a model for other airports in the Philippines and throughout Asia as potential PPP opportunities are evaluated,” he said.

### **Passenger Traffic and Route Development**

In the first nine months of this year, MCIA accommodated 8.6 million passengers compared with 7.5 million in the same period last year as a result of aggressive airline marketing efforts to increase domestic and international flights in and out of Cebu. Domestic passengers continue to account for the bulk of the total at 66% while International passengers accounted for 34%.

GMCAC previously announced that it had opened 15 new routes in 2018, 12 of those from China. The company also reported an increase in the frequencies of international flights which corresponded with the opening of MCIA’s new international terminal (Terminal 2) last July 1, 2018.

### **New Flights and Frequencies**

Last October, Sichuan Airlines increased flights to Chongqing from 4x weekly to daily, while Philippine Airlines increased flights to Nagoya from 3x to 4x weekly. Meanwhile, Cebu Pacific has increased flights to Hong Kong from daily to 10x weekly starting November 26; and flights to Tokyo Narita from 4x weekly to daily starting December 1.

As for new flights, Tiger Taiwan started Cebu to Taipei 4x weekly flights last December 2. Cebu Pacific will start operating 4x weekly Cebu to Macau flights on December 7. Korean low-cost carrier Jeju Air, meanwhile, will commence 5x weekly operations between Cebu and Muan, South Korea starting December 21.

Currently, MCIA is connected to 33 domestic destinations and 22 international destinations, with 9 domestic airline partners and 24 international airline partners. #