



Direct Flights to Manila from Regional Airports

Date of Release: 9 July 2024

Dept. in Charge: **International Air Transport Division, MOLIT**

Contact: Annie KIM / Global Media Communicator, MOLIT / audiis2@korea.kr / +82 44 201 3056

Korea-Philippines air services talk on 3-4 July resulted in a liberalization of direct flights between Korea's local cities and Manila

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister PARK Sang-woo) achieved an agreement of liberalization between regional cities of Korea and Manila of the Philippines from the two-day air services consultation* held in Manila on 3-4 July.

* Heads of delegation: (Korea) Director SHIM Ji-young for International Air Transport of MOLIT, (Philippines) Enrique Antonio Esquivel III, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and Airports, Department of Transportation

While the capacity for Korea-Manila route was limited to 20,000 seats per week, the aeronautical authorities of the two countries agreed to liberalize routes between Korea's local airports and Manila from the latest air services meeting.

As a result, flights between regional airports of Korea and Manila can be operated without restrictions as to numbers, making it possible for national air carriers to launch new flights at any time.



Furthermore, the seat capacity between Korea and Manila route which was initially set as 20,000 seats per week was increased to 30,000 seats per week, with an agreement to apply 30,000 weekly seats only to Incheon and Manila route. With such agreement, the direct flights between Korea and the Philippines were liberalized for all routes except those between the capital city airports.

Director General KIM Yeong-kook for Aviation Policy of MOLIT said, “Due to the limited traffic rights to Manila from local cities of Korea, national carriers has experienced difficulties in adding flights to the capital city of the Philippines.”

Adding, “The achievement from this meeting is expected to enhance passenger convenience for air transport users as well as strengthen connectivity of regional airports of Korea. As Manila shows a steady demand for commercial travel, business travelers of Korea will also be able to take advantage of increased flights for their expansion of business to the Philippines. MOLIT will continue to do its best to improve convenience for international passengers”.