



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 April 2012

Sydney and Delhi airports join forces

- **Sydney Airport and Delhi Airport to cooperate on growing the Australia-India market**
- **Significant opportunity for direct flights between Australia and the subcontinent**
- **Further extension of Sydney Airport's growing network of strategic partners**

Sydney and Delhi airports today announced a strategic partnership to strengthen the Australia-India market and work on bringing together the largest markets not yet connected with direct services in those countries.

Sydney Airport chief executive officer Kerrie Mather said: "Sydney and Delhi are the largest markets for Australia-India air traffic in their respective countries and both cities are the gateway to their respective countries.

"Working together with Delhi Airport makes sense in terms of achieving our common objectives of growing this market.

For both countries, the Australia-India market is the single largest market not served by direct services. Delhi has a population of more than 22 million and there is strong travel between the countries for business, leisure, education and visiting friends and relatives.

With a large Indian community in Sydney and growing demand for inbound travel, India is a key emerging market for tourism, as well as business travel.

"About 44 per cent of Australian residents with Indian ancestry live in Sydney, so it's no wonder that Sydney is the preferred gateway for Indian travellers with almost 40 per cent of the market," Ms Mather said.

The MOU with Delhi Airport follows an agreement with Beijing Airport last year.

"Together with our partnership with Beijing Airport, our ties with Delhi Airport mean that we now have strong strategic alliances with two of Australia's key emerging growth markets for inbound travel," Ms Mather said.

A senior delegation from Delhi Airport including the chief executive, chief financial officer and head of strategy visited Sydney last week to develop joint initiatives on route development and improved passenger facilitation.

“Partnering with Sydney is a win-win for both airports,” Delhi Airport chief executive IP Rao said. “Other than connecting two very large, robust markets, Delhi's geographic location provides an ideal connecting point for long distance flights out of Sydney bound for Europe and beyond.”

“I had the opportunity to meet with Delhi Airport’s CEO when I visited India as part of the NSW Premier’s delegation in November,” Ms Mather said.

“We’ve continued the dialogue and last week’s meeting was a further opportunity to discuss the many ways in which we can cooperate and grow this market that is ripe for direct services.

“I am hopeful that Sydney Airport’s partnerships with Delhi Airport, Destination NSW and other stakeholders will bring direct flights from India in the near future.

Contact:

Tracy Ong

Manager, Media and Communications

(02) 9667 6470 or 0437 033 479