



23 Jan 2002

Air Mauritius inaugural flight lands at Dubai International Airport

The Department of Civil Aviation today welcomed the first Air Mauritius Boeing 767/200 flight MK 910 from Mauritius. The flight which was initially scheduled to arrive on 22nd January, 2002, had been delayed due to inclement weather in Mauritius. The flight is a non-stop one from Mauritius to Dubai. The inaugural flight comes as a result of bilateral agreement signed in June 2001.

To mark this important occasion, a joint high-level delegation from Mauritius arrived in Dubai on the same flight. The delegation included two Ministers, the Hon Nandcoomar Bodha, Minister of Tourism and the Hon Showkutally Soodhun, Minister of Labour and Industrial relations, as well as the Chairman of Air Mauritius, Dr Arjoon Suddhoo and the Managing Director of Air Mauritius, Mr Vinod Chidambaram. The Director of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, Dr Karl Mootosamy as well as members of the local press and television and representatives of the hotel and trade industry were also on board the inaugural flight.

On behalf of HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Department of Civil Aviation and Chairman of Emirates Group, the delegation was received by Mr Abdulla Al Ansari, Director HR&D DCA and other high-ranking officials from the Department of Civil Aviation.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Department of Civil Aviation and Chairman of Emirates Group commented: "This agreement will open up a new tourism sector from Dubai. Mauritius is one of the popular destinations and we expect this agreement to boost our trade and tourism ties."

According to top management of Air Mauritius: "Air Mauritius has added Dubai to its network of destinations because of the high potential of Dubai. The setting of the hub Dubai is also at the same time adding the missing link in the regions currently flown to by Air Mauritius - Europe, Africa, India, Australia, Asia. Dubai will also be of strong support to Air Mauritius for its flow of 'religious' traffic from Mauritius to Jeddah for the Haj, Umrah and Ramadan."

The agreement signed between the Department of Civil Aviation Dubai and Air Mauritius allows three flights a week between Dubai and Mauritius by Emirates and Air Mauritius. There will, however, be no limits on cargo flights. Air Mauritius is beginning with one flight a week at present.