

Speech by STL at HSBC-Cathay-EcoCeres Sustainable Aviation Fuel Initiative activation ceremony (English only) (with photo)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Lam Sai-hung, at the HSBC-Cathay-EcoCeres Sustainable Aviation Fuel Initiative activation ceremony today (November 19):

Ronald (Chief Executive Officer of Cathay Group, Mr Ronald Lam), Luanne (Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Hong Kong, Ms Luanne Lim), Matti (Executive Chairman of EcoCeres, Mr Matti Lievonen), Clara (Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong Investment Corporation, Ms Clara Chan), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I am delighted to be here with you today to mark a significant milestone in our journey towards a more sustainable future and a significant enhancement to our aviation hub. First of all, my appreciation to Cathay Pacific, HSBC and EcoCeres for activation of the groundbreaking partnership for the purchase of over 1 million US gallons of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) produced by EcoCeres and used to refuel Cathay Pacific's aircraft at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).

The Government remains steadfast in its support for green aviation in Hong Kong. As the Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address last month, our goal is to establish a usage target for SAF within next year, aiming to significantly reduce carbon emissions in the aviation sector. This initiative aligns with the increasing global demand for sustainable solutions in aviation, and we look to the industry for robust support in this regard.

The announcement of this tripartite partnership arrives at a crucial time. The collaborative efforts of Cathay Pacific, HSBC and EcoCeres in advancing sustainability resonate with the Government's initiatives and vision. The purchase and future uplift of SAF represent a pivotal step towards achieving net carbon zero in aviation. The Government will maintain close communication with our partners in the aviation and other relevant stakeholders to ensure smooth progress of this journey.

HKIA's inherent advantages – its prime geographical location, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and exceptional connectivity with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area – have long been the foundation of our aviation success. With the upcoming commissioning of the Three-Runway System next week on November 28, we anticipate new opportunities on the horizon. As we expand our aviation network, supporting HKIA in exploring new destinations and enhancing existing routes, we remain acutely aware of the importance of having a green and sustainable airport. A sustainable approach is integral to our vision of being a leading international aviation hub.

With the growing emphasis on green aviation nationally and internationally, we expect to see more local and non-local airlines step up the usage of SAF, which allows them to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. HKIA is well equipped to respond to such demand. Meanwhile, this will present abundant opportunities for the SAF industry. We are eager to see our aviation industry continue to work hand in hand with the SAF production industry to advance this cause.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Cathay Pacific, HSBC, and EcoCeres on achieving this remarkable milestone. Your collaboration sets a powerful example of what can be accomplished when we unite towards a common goal. I wish you continued success and innovation in the years to come.

Thank you.

