

FROM THE EDITOR...

Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake, Sri Lanka, has been undergoing a major expansion to provide improved passenger experience and increase handling capacity. Construction of the second passenger terminal building (Terminal 2) is the centerpiece of the airport's expansion programme, which aims to increase business opportunities in Sri Lanka's aviation sector. The airport authorities held a kick-off meeting with the new terminal contractor and project consultants in September 2020 to present the working plan for the terminal construction and other related works.



The \$550 m expansion project comprises two packages, package A and package B, and it had been planned to be completed within three years. The project will address issues such as congestion and passenger discomfort at the airport. The new terminal is expected to handle nine million passengers a year, taking the airport's passenger handling capacity to 15 million passengers annually.

The new terminal will offer barrier-free access with multiple environmentally-friendly initiatives and incorporate Japanese advanced technology. The project will involve the construction of a new multi-level terminal building with a floor area of approximately 180,000m², two new piers, and a link course connecting to the existing terminal. The arrival and departure areas will be separated vertically. Bandaranaike International Airport's new terminal building will include 96 check-in counters, eight baggage claim belts, seven baggage make-up carousels, contact boarding gates, passenger boarding bridges, and bus gates. The terminal will incorporate sustainability measures such as 40% water saving, 25% energy saving, installation of energy-efficient equipment, commitment to using zero chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) refrigerants, and preferred parking for low emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles.

In March 2016, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement worth JPY45.42bn (\$403.75 m) with a 40-year repayment period to support the new terminal construction and associated works. It previously provided a loan of JPY28.96bn (\$257.44 m) for the detail design of the airport. In September 2024, Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (AASL) announced the tender for Bandaranaike International Airport Development Project Phase 2 (the BIA Project), which aims to accomplish the full scope of the Project funded by the JICA's ODA loan by the end of 2027 to meet the growing passenger demand in Sri Lanka. At the end of July 2024, upon the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on debt restructuring by members of Official Creditors' Committee and the Government of Sri Lanka, JICA has restarted disbursement for all the JICA-funded projects, including the BIA Project. JICA recognizes the BIA Project as one of the most important projects between Sri Lanka and Japan, and wishes that the new airport facilities to be built under the project will contribute to inviting more foreign visitors to Sri Lanka and increase country's foreign currency earnings. JICA will continue to provide AASL with assistance necessary to complete the BIA Project. With the construction of the new terminal, the Bandaranayake International Airport would become a leading aviation hub in the region.

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