

Ethiopian Airlines new route Between Addis Ababa and Singapore links Africa with Singapore

Ethiopian Embassy, Beijing, 7 December 2013- The Ethiopian Airlines maiden flight to Singapore was hailed as an important milestone in the relations between Ethiopia and Singapore and as an important step towards bringing Singapore closer to Africa and vice versa.

The Ethiopian Airlines flight ET626 landed at Changi International Airport on December 3, 2013 at 18:10 hours making the Airline the first and the only East African Airline linking Africa with Singapore.



Passengers on board flight ET 626 included a delegation led by H.E. Mr. Tadesse Haile, State Minister of F.D.R. of Ethiopia for Industry, H.E. Mr. Lee Yi Shan, Senior State Minister for Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore, Ethiopian Airlines CEO, Ethiopian business executives and representatives, and a cultural troupe.

The State Minister of Trade and Industry of Singapore, H.E. Mr. Lee Yi Shan paid an official visit to Ethiopia and met with senior government officials in Addis Ababa and returned home onboard the inaugural Ethiopian Airlines Flight.

H.E. State Minister Tadesse Haile led a mixed government-business delegation to Singapore to take part in and celebrate the inaugural flight and related events.

Upon arrival, H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Ambassador (non-resident) of F.D.R. of Ethiopia to Singapore, H.E. Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary (Southeast Asia & ASEAN) and Ambassador (non-resident) to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the African Union, officials of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Changi Airport group welcomed the passengers onboard the Inaugural Flight.

A series of events linked to the inaugural flight were held the following two consecutive days and highlighted the growing relations between Singapore and Ethiopia.

A business forum was held on 4 December at the Singapore Manufactures Federation in the presence of Ethiopian and Singaporean officials and members of the business community.

On the occasion H.E. Mr. Tadesse Haile and H.E. Ambassador Gopala Menon delivered statements.

The CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Mr. Tewolde Gebremariam made a presentation on the vision and plan of the Ethiopian Airlines in General and the Airlines' vision for Singapore in particular.



Ms. Lekeyeleshe Abay, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Investment Agency made a presentation on Ethiopian investment opportunities and incentives.

The forum was followed by a one-on-one meeting between the Ethiopian and Singaporean business executives and representatives.

The Ethiopian Airlines Inaugural Flight to Singapore was celebrated by a Gala Dinner organized by the Changi Airport Group of Singapore and Ethiopian Airlines on the same day at the Shangri-la hotel.



In a statement delivered on the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin underlined the significance of the newly established route to Singapore as an important milestone in the relations between Singapore and Africa in general and Ethiopia and Singapore in particular. He further pointed out that "The commencement of Ethiopian Airlines' flight to Singapore will have immense contributions. It will bring African countries and Singapore much more closer than ever before. ET will bring Africa to Singapore and beyond, and vice versa to facilitate business between African countries and

Singapore in general and between Ethiopia and Singapore in particular." Ambassador Seyoum said, the reality makes it essential for Africa and Asia to come closer. Africa and Asia need and complement each other.

Mr. Wong Woon Liong, Senior Advisor, Changi Airport Group in his statement noted, “The successful launch of this new service marks a significant milestone for Singapore and Changi Airport. We now have a new air bridge between Asia-Pacific and East and Central Africa, which should help open up more business and tourism opportunities.”

The Ethiopian Airlines CEO made elaborate presentation on the vision of Ethiopian Airlines as an African Airline.



Emphasizing the convenience of the new Ethiopian route, he said, a passenger departing Singapore can have his dinner in Singapore and his lunch the next day anywhere in Africa.

Ethiopian Airlines is globally acclaimed for its unparalleled flight network in Africa covering nearly all African countries.

The Ethiopian cultural troupe and a coffee ceremony spiced up the event and gave a glimpse of the diverse Ethiopian culture to the Singaporean audience.

Present on the occasion included Ethiopian delegation led by H.E. Mr. Tadesse Haile, Singapore Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transport Parliamentary Secretary H.E. Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary (Southeast Asia & ASEAN) and Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the African Union Mr. Vanu Gopala Menon.

A series of cultural events at the Ethiopian village in the Singapore Zoo, at Tamasek Polytechnic and at Toby’s café was held on December 5.

The Ethiopian Delegation led by H.E. State Minister Tadesse returned to Addis Ababa completing its three-day visit to Singapore on Thursday evening, December 5.

Ethiopian Airlines new route between Addis Ababa and Singapore has three weekly flights on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The total flight time is estimated at 11 hours between Addis Ababa and Singapore including a one hour stopover at Bangkok.