It has been getting hot and muggy since the end of rainy season two weeks ago here in Tokyo. The temperature during day time is about 35 degrees centigrade lately. I feel like everything is burning up or melting down. No matter how hot it is, business men and women have to work even in August except for housewives and children. The only motivation for work is dreaming to enjoy summer vacation with family in the sea or mountain. I hope you are all enjoying the summer vacation too.

As I announced in the previous issues, the wonderful article came from Changi Slot Coordination (CSC) who was recently charged with slot coordination for Singapore Changi International Airport. This article features not only the newly formed organization but also the recent tourism developments in Singapore. It will be fun.

In addition, I featured the outcome of the preparatory meeting for the establishment of regional coordinator and facilitator group in Asia/Pacific which was held during SC126 in Berlin, Germany. I also featured the Asian Tea Gathering held right after the preparatory meeting. I hope you will enjoy reading those articles.

Singapore is an island country off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, 137 km (85 mi) north of the equator, in the Southeast Asian region of the Asian continent. We are separated from Malaysia by the Straits of Johor to the north and from Indonesia’s Riau Islands by the Singapore Strait to the south. Singapore is one of the smallest countries in the world with a total land area of 710 square km.

Singapore has a diverse population of 5 million people made up of Chinese (74.2%), Malays (13.4%), Indians (9.2%), and others (3.2%). We have the sixth-highest percentage of foreigners in the world (42%), which makes up 50% of the service sector. Singapore is the second most densely populated in the world after Monaco.

Singapore is the world’s fourth leading financial centre and a cosmopolitan city, playing a key role in international trade and finance. We are the fourth wealthiest country in the world in terms of GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) per capita, and the twentieth wealthiest in terms of GDP (nominal) per capita. Despite Singapore’s small
size, we have the world’s ninth largest foreign reserves. The Economist Intelligence Unit in its “Quality-Of-Life Index” ranks Singapore as having the best quality of life in Asia and eleventh overall in the world. Today, the port of Singapore continues to be among the top five busiest ports in the world.

**Latest Tourism Developments**

Tourism in Singapore is a major industry and attracts millions of tourists each year. Our cultural attraction can be attributed to our cultural diversity that reflects our colonial history and Chinese, Malay, Indian and Arab ethnicities. We are also environmentally friendly, and maintain natural and heritage conservation programs. Some of our major tourism attractions includes Orchard Road shopping district, the Singapore Zoo and Night Safari, the Jurong Bird Park and Sentosa.

In the recent years, the tourism landscape for Singapore has been transformed. New attractions include the Singapore Flyer and Marina Barrage. In 2010, Singapore saw the opening of the two world-class integrated resorts – Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World Sentosa, and the first Universal Studios theme park in Southeast Asia. More exciting iconic attractions will be completed in the next few years such as Louis Vuitton Island, Maritime Xperiential Museum, River Safari and Gardens by the Bay.

There are also many exciting international events held at Singapore every year. Some of the major events this year include the Great Singapore Sale, Formula 1 Grand Prix 2010, Youth Olympics 2010 and Asia Fashion Summit.
Besides having one of the busiest sea ports in the world, Singapore is also one of the largest international aviation hubs in the region. Singapore Changi International Airport is built on 1,300 hectares of land comprising four passenger terminals with annual handling capacity of 73 million passengers, an airfreight centre (nine terminals) with annual handling capacity of 3 million tonnes of cargo and two 4,000 metre parallel runways.

In 2009, Singapore Changi International Airport handled 37.2 million passengers and 1.63 million tonnes of cargo. Our airport is operational 24 hours a day and is served by 89 scheduled airlines operating more than 5,000 weekly international flights to 201 cities.
Since the opening of the airport in 1981, Singapore Changi International Airport has garnered more than 350 awards from the travel industry. In the first six months of 2010, Singapore Changi Airport has picked up ten Best Airport awards, including World’s Best Airport at the 2010 Skytrax World Airport Awards, Top Worldwide Airport by Wanderlust, Best Airport in Asia Pacific by DestinAsian and Best Airport in the World by Ultimate Luxury Travel Related Awards.

Introduction to New Changi Slot Coordination (CSC) Team

Changi Airport Group (CAG) was formed on 1 July 2009 following the corporatization of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS). CAG operates and manages Singapore Changi Airport and Seletar Airport while CAAS retains regulatory oversight of the civil aviation industry in Singapore.

CAG has been appointed by CAAS to take over slot coordination from Singapore Airlines (SIA) from Northern Winter 2010 (NW2010) onwards. The CSC team in CAG consists of 4 members – James, June, Adeline and Jessie.

Introduction of our computer system

After a thorough evaluation, CAG has selected SCORE to help us in the coordination of slots at Singapore Changi Airport. CAG appointed Airport Coordination Limited (ACL) as our trainer for SCORE, given their extensive track record and experience in the system. We started a series of training sessions with Scott Owen from ACL since April 2009. In order to get a feel of the day to day coordination work processes before we officially undertake the actual coordination for NW2010, we attended a 2 week
practical training session at ACL office in London in March 2010.

Throughout the preparatory stages, the CSC team had to work closely with CAAS and SIA to ensure a smooth transition in the change of slot coordinator for the airport. In particular, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to Bernice from CAAS, Richard and Edwin from SIA and our trainer Scott from ACL, for their support to ensure that the CSC team is equipped with the necessary system, skills and knowledge to undertake slot coordination for Singapore Changi Airport.

The preparatory meeting was held from 15:30 to 16:30 at Saal Berlin D conference room on 19 June (Saturday) 2010 at the occasion of IATA 126th Schedule Conference in Berlin. 25 people representing 10 countries and regions in Asia/Pacific participated in the meeting.

The following two important things were agreed among Asia/Pacific coordinators and facilitators at this meeting.

(1) The creation of regional coordinators and facilitators group in Asia/Pacific was unanimously agreed and supported.

(2) The name of the regional group was agreed to be Asia/Pacific Airport Coordinators Association with the acronym of APACA.
Although the draft articles for APACA were presented to the participants, the meeting did not review it in detail. The Asia/Pacific coordinators and facilitators are asked to review the draft article in detail, and send the comments on it by the end of September. Once finalized through e-mail correspondence, it will be presented for approval at the next schedule conference (SC127) to be held in Melbourne, Australia in November.

The minutes of the preparatory meeting and the latest draft articles of APACA can be retrieved from APACA on the top menu of JSC’s web site (www.schedule-coordination.jp). We also created a new e-mail address of APACA@schedule-coordination.jp for future correspondence of APACA. Please give us your comment on the draft article of APACA by the end of September.

Asian Tea Gathering

Right after the preparatory meeting for the establishment of regional group in Asia/Pacific, the Asian Tea Gathering was held from 5:00 to 6:00 PM at the meeting room of JSC. About 40 people got together to enjoy chatting over the cup of tea and sweets. Look at many sweets on the table from different countries. Participants surely enjoyed the different flavor of tea and sweets and chatting.

This is a good opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and exchange information on informal manner. All Asia/Pacific coordinators and facilitators are most welcome to join in this gathering.
At last, it was announced by Mr. Krolke that next Asian Tea Gathering will be hosted by Airport Coordination Australia (ACA) since SC127 will be held in Melbourne, Australia. Please make sure to join in the next tea gathering in November.

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From the Chief Editor

Thank Changi Slot Coordination (CSC) for wonderful article. I was deeply impressed with the recent tourism developments in Singapore. While I know the Singapore has been famous for its sightseeing and convention, you are now moving to Casino, Shopping (Louis Vuitton), Theatre (Lion King) and Attractions (Universal Studio) to entertain the visitors from all over the world. No wonder you maintain the continuous rapid increase of air transportation at Singapore Changi International Airport.

I congratulate CSC for the successful transition to SCORE system starting from W10. Last year we went through the exact same procedures as CSC did for the formal operation of S10. Our SCORE system is also running without any problem thanks to PDC and ACL.

The most fascinating and biggest events representing the summer of Japan is the fireworks. There will be more 200 fireworks festivals all over the Japan during the summer. The oldest and large scale of fireworks in Japan is fireworks festival at Sumida River which is always conducted at the last Saturday of July. Young and old can enjoy this fireworks festival without going there since it is televised every year.

Speaking of Sumida, the huge construction work is now going on in this area. That is the construction of “Tokyo Sky Tree” which is the new TV tower for digital high definition broadcasting. Although the height of current Tokyo tower is 333m, that of new TV tower will be
634m which is going to be the highest TV tower in the world. The current height of this tower is over 400m just up to the first observation deck. This TV tower is going to be completed in the spring of 2011. This tower is getting a new tourist spot in Asakusa in Sumida Ward.

Next issue is coming from Hyderabad International Airport in India. Take good care of yourself. (H.T.)