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Phuket Airport Expansion Planned

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Airports of Thailand (AOT) is set to inject 5 billion baht into the expansion of Phuket International Airport to bring its capacity up to 11.5 million passengers by the year 2016 – an increase of 77% over current capacity.

The announcement was made on May 23, 2008 by Deputy Transport Minister Songsak Thongsri, who joined Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rathasima, PIA Director Wicha Nernlop, and other officials from AOT and PIA in a meeting and inspection tour of the airport.

In 2007, Phuket Airport had a total of 38,368 flights, a 32.4% rise from the year 2006, with 5.47 million passengers using the airport, a 22.6% increase over the previous year. The sharp rise is attributed to the growing popularity of low-cost carriers.

This year, the AOT expects the airport to accommodate 41,000 flights and about 6 million passengers.

Following the 516-million-baht expansion of the international terminal completed last year, the airport can now handle up to 6.5 million passengers per year. The 5-billion-baht funding will cover the development plan for fiscal years 2009-2011, said K.

Phuket Travel Deals





Current weather

Phuket Airport



- Broken clouds
- Temperature: 29 °C
- Wind: West, 11.1 km/h
- Pressure: 1012 hPa
- Rel. Humidity: 70%
- Visibility: 10 kilometers

Reported on:
Thu, 2008-10-02 10:00

Songsak.

Beyond that, AOT will need to provide more funding in order for the airport to be able to welcome 15 million visitors by 2020, he said.

The 2009-2011 budget will cover the construction of more taxiways and 11 parking bays for aircraft, a new international passenger terminal, conversion of the existing international terminal into a domestic terminal, a new cargo building, new roads and improved transport systems, a parking garage for the international terminal, improvements in car parking areas, as well as a new airport office and airline offices.

However, the two-year plan does not address the airport's main limiting factor: that its single 3,000-meter runway can only accommodate 20 flights per hour and is too short to allow for safe takeoff of fully-laden jumbo jets or the mammoth Airbus 380.

Given this restraint, AOT is intending to propose to the Transport Ministry that [Krabi International Airport](#) be designated as a relief airport for PIA when traffic exceeds capacity, K. Songsak said.

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