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5.00pm: KLCI 1,080.11 (-0.55); FBM Emas 7,040.40 (+5.18); SBI 92.39 (+0.83); Up 527; Down 362; Unchanged 2

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09-11-2006: KLIA's LCCT named Low-Cost Airport of the Year for Asia-Pacific

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The Low-Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT) at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), which is owned by Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB), was named CAPA Low-Cost Airport of the Year at the CAPA Aviation Awards for excellence in Singapore on the night of Nov 9, barely seven months after it started operations.

The newly introduced award honours a low-cost airport or terminal that has been at the forefront of change in this region.

In an MAHB statement on Nov 9, the executive chairman of Centre For Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) Peter Harbison said: "KL International Airport (KLIA) established its dedicated LCC facilities in record time, providing a terminal well suited to the needs of the fast-growing LCC sector."

MAHB managing director Datuk Seri Bashir Ahmad, on receiving the award, said it was "rewarding to receive this award as the LCCT-KLIA had just started operations".

"I guess what we had going for us, especially those working at the terminal, was the ability to overcome any teething problems in record time and work towards ensuring that passengers get the most from the terminal's facilities and be as comfortable as they possibly can while waiting for their flights or upon their arrival.

"This award has spurred us to work harder to maintain the LCCT's standing as the best in Asia-Pacific," Bashir said.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg reported that MAHB, which operates 39 airfields in the country, may expand the KLIA to handle between 10 million and 15 million more passengers.

"As for the main terminal, we're looking at a second satellite three to four years from now," Bashir said in an interview on Nov 9 in Singapore, where he is attending an aviation conference.

The move will boost the airport's passenger handling capacity by between 10 and 15 million passengers, Bashir said.

The KLIA handled 23.2 million passengers and 653.6 million kilograms of cargo last year, according to MAHB's website. The airport has an existing capacity to handle 25 million passengers a year.

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