

### **ETIHAD AIRWAYS AND KOREAN AIR SIGN CODESHARE AGREEMENT**

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has signed a new codeshare agreement with Korean Air, South Korea's largest airline. The partnership, which comes into effect on July 22 subject to regulatory approval, brings to 46 the number of codeshares operated by the Abu Dhabi-based flag carrier.

In the first phase of cooperation, Korean Air will place its 'KE' code on Etihad Airways' daily services between Seoul (Incheon) and Abu Dhabi. Members of Etihad Airways' Etihad Guest and Korean Air's SKYPASS loyalty programs will also enjoy full reciprocity. These reciprocity benefits include lounge access, priority check-in and excess baggage allowances for top tier program members and the ability to earn and burn frequent flyer points on all Etihad Airways and Korean Air flights.

Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer James Hogan said the new commercial partnership with Korean Air was a significant development for the airline – in both strategic and commercial terms.

“The new codeshare with Korean Air demonstrates the operational and customer benefits afforded by Etihad Airways' strategy of partnering with other great airlines.

“It deepens the existing partnership with Korean Air beyond the interline and special prorate agreements inked in August 2009 and creates a rich, new environment for even closer commercial collaboration.

“Codesharing on the Abu Dhabi-Seoul route will enable the airlines to leverage the strength of their respective brands and distribution channels for mutual commercial and customer benefit.”

Mr Hogan highlighted the rapid growth in travel, trade and investment between the UAE and Korea as drivers of the success Etihad Airways had enjoyed since commencing flights to Seoul in late 2010.

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“Demand for business and leisure travel between Korea and the UAE, Middle East and Africa, in particular, has grown many-fold over the past three years while trade between the UAE and Korea, which was valued at US\$20 billion in 2012, has also been rapidly expanding.

“Korean investment in infrastructure and other projects in the UAE – valued at approximately US\$29 billion since 2009 – has been a further catalyst for diplomatic, business and cultural exchange and a major contributor to the growth of travel between the two countries.

“We envision that closer collaboration with Korean Air will foster continued bilateral growth in these areas,” Mr Hogan said.

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### **About Etihad Airways**

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, began operations in 2003, and in 2012 carried 10.3 million passengers. From its hub at Abu Dhabi International Airport, Etihad Airways serves 94 passenger and cargo destinations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas, with a fleet of 78 Airbus and Boeing aircraft, and over 80 aircraft on firm order, including 41 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners and 10 Airbus A380s, the world’s largest passenger aircraft. Etihad Airways also holds equity investments in airberlin, Air Seychelles, Virgin Australia, Aer Lingus and, subject to regulatory approval, will acquire 24 per cent of India’s Jet Airways. For more information, please visit: [www.etihad.com](http://www.etihad.com)

### **About Korean Air**

Korean Air, with a fleet of 157 aircraft, is one of the world's top 20 airlines, and operates more than 400 flights per day to 125 cities in 45 countries. It is a founding member of the SkyTeam alliance, which together with its 19 members, offers its 552 million annual passengers a worldwide system of more than 15,000 daily flights covering 993 destinations in 187 countries. In 2012, Business Traveler named Korean Air the best Asian airline for the sixth consecutive year while the China Travel Media Alliance named Korean Air "the Best Airline of the Year." Korean Air became the first airline to receive the Excellence in Service award at the World Travel Awards. In 2011, Global Traveler awarded the airline with best airline in northern Asia

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and best airport staff/gate agents. The carrier has repeatedly won the Global Travel Catering Distinction award by Pax International magazine while World Traveler magazine rated it as having the world's best inflight service. Travel & Leisure magazine readers have consistently named it as one of the world's top 10 international carriers and readers of Conde Nast Traveler magazine have voted Korean Air one of the world's top 10 global airlines. More on Korean Air's programs, routes, frequencies and partners is available at [www.koreanair.com](http://www.koreanair.com)