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LOW FARES TO MACAU

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Bali Dreams in Courtyard

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PATA Travel Monitor gives cause for optimism

Tourism figures not all doom and gloom...

Figures reported in PATA's Travel Monitor for the third quarter of 2008 reflect the growing impact of the global economic downturn on travel and tourism across the Asia Pacific region. But the Monitor, which analyses international arrivals figures obtained exclusively by PATA, also indicates cause for optimism in certain destinations. For Q3 2008, international arrivals in 35 destinations show a decrease of just 1% compared

to the same period in 2007 whilst figures for the first nine months of 2008 show a year-on-year increase of 3%. "Earlier this year we were predicting year-on-year growth for the region at between 7-8%. Our report shows that, despite the gloomy global economic outlook, some individual source markets were growing to a number of specific destinations," commented PATA Strategic Intelligence Director,

John Koldowski. These include travellers from Iran to Malaysia (up 162%), Thailand to Macau (up 132%) and Russia to the Maldives (up 55%). PATA also confirms earlier predictions by its analysts that some long-haul travel would be sacrificed in favour of short and media haul trips. International arrivals to Malaysia from Indonesia rose more than 45% year-on-year in Q3 2008, while China to Macau (16%) and China

to Hong Kong (9%) also saw significant rises. Thailand, which faced additional domestic challenges, saw international arrivals to Suvarnabhumi airport in Q3 fall by 16% year-on-year, but figures for January-September show modest growth of almost 4%. However the latest Travel Monitor does not cover the period when Bangkok's main international airport was closed.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS



STEPHEN PAHL has been announced as the new Chief Executive Officer of Destination Queenstown. Pahl takes the reins following a long and broad career in the tourism industry that includes hospitality, transport, and destination management roles, as well as CEO positions at two Australian regional tourism operations and most recently, as CEO of Ecotourism Australia.



ROBERT HUNTER has been appointed General Manager of the recently opened Aston Marina All-Suites Hotel in Ancol, Indonesia. Hunter arrives from the YTL Group where he served as GM of the Majestic Hotel Malacca. He also has previous experience in Asia with major hotel groups such as Pan Pacific, IHG, Sol Melia and Marriott.



BRUCE MCALEER has been announced as the new Hotel Manager at the brand new Central Sky Lounge Melbourne. Prior to his role with Central, McAleer held management positions with Vista and Corus Hotels and Rendezvous Hotels and Resorts International. During his time in the industry, he has managed properties in Sydney, Adelaide, Hobart, Alice Springs, Kuala Lumpur and London.



MATTHEW EASTWELL has been appointed Executive Chef at Accor's Swiss Grand Resort & Spa, on Bondi Beach. With experience across Europe, Eastwell is heavily influenced by Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine.



PRATEEK KUMAR has been appointed General Manager of the Dusit Thani Manila. Prior to this appointment, he was responsible for the successful pre-opening of Ascott Raffles Place, a luxury all-suite hotel set in the heart of Singapore's financial cityscape. He also worked for Raffles Group, Starwood and Renaissance Group.



DEPESH SETH has been appointed the new General Manager of the Sheraton Xi'an Hotel. With over 13 years experience in the hospitality industry, Seth has worked in countries such as China, Malaysia, Singapore and Switzerland. Prior to his new role, Seth was the Hotel Manager for the Sheraton Chengdu Lido Hotel.



DEANNA VARGA has also joined the Swiss Grand Resort & Spa as Director of Sales and Marketing. Varga has extensive sales and marketing experience both in Australia and overseas and was most recently responsible for stakeholder communication for the Business Events Australia unit within Tourism Australia.



SOMPPOP PRATTRANASANTI has been appointed Executive Assistant Manager of the Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort. Khun Sompoph was previously Director of Rooms at the 470-room resort.



ROBERT JENSCH has been announced as the first General Manager of the newly opened Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel. Jensch joins the new property 658-room Marriott from the Ritz Carlton Rose Hall in Jamaica where he was also General Manager. He has previously worked in across six countries, including the US, Israel and Greece.



MAXINE HOWE has also joined the team at the new Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel, as Director of Sales & Marketing. Howe joins from the Renaissance Shanghai Zhongshan Park Hotel where she held the position of Director of Marketing.