

Boeing purchases to boost MAS growth plans

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia Airlines' purchases of new Boeing aircraft will boost the country's aviation industry and strengthen the airline's transformation plan, said Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

The Transport Minister heaped praise on the deal, which was inked at a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony in the United States, in conjunction with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's working visit to the White House.

"I am pleased to see this deal become a reality. The purchases will strengthen our initiatives to make Malaysia a regional aviation hub in Asean.

"I am also confident that Malaysia Airlines' transformation plan, in which it hopes to break even next year, will materialise. "It is an important move to ensure that our aviation industry continues to grow," Liow told reporters at his ministry after the weekly Cabinet meeting.

Liow said the new 787 Dreamliner and 737-MAX 10 aircraft would complement the ministry's policy of going green and reducing carbon emission.

"We have been encouraging airlines to reduce carbon emission and these airplanes with improved technology will ensure that. "We have seen both AirAsia and Malaysia Airlines putting in a lot of effort to go green," he said.

Liow also said Najib's visit to the White House would bring many benefits to both Malaysia and the United States. "It is very important to maintain a good bilateral relationship with the United States.

"It is the biggest economy in the world and over time has established a lot of investments in Malaysia. So we need to maintain this," he added.