

Civil Aviation Authority Gets New Chairman And CEO

PETALING JAYA : Public Service Department (JPA) director-general Datuk Mohd Khairul Adib Abd Rahman has been appointed the new Civil Aviation Authority (CAAM) chairman, says the Transport Ministry. Its Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong also announced the appointment of Chester Voo Chee Soon as CAAM's new chief executive officer. Both the appointments are effective from June 1. Dr Wee said he appointed Mohd Khairul based on Section 5(1) and appointed Voo, upon considering the recommendation of the CAAM, under Section 21 of the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia Act 2017.

"Mohd Khairul has been a professional civil servant for more than three decades and currently serves as director-general of the JPA. "He had previously served as the secretary-general of the Ministry of Transport. "Voo, an accomplished airline pilot, brings a wealth of experience to the aviation industry. "He had flown for several airlines before his latest position as director of flight operations for a domestic airline. "His experience is corroborated by his peers in both the private and public aviation sectors," said Dr Wee in a statement yesterday.

He believes that both Mohd Khairul and Voo would do much to help the government improve the industry's commitment to world-class efficiency, safety and security of civil aviation. He said one of the main tasks was to restore Malaysia's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) status to Category 1 which was first obtained in 2003. Malaysia's status was downgraded to Category 2 by the United States FAA effective November last year. The new rating means that air carriers from Malaysia cannot start new services and are restricted to current levels of any existing service to the United States. FAA will also not allow reciprocal code-sharing arrangements between US and Malaysian carriers when a country is rated Category 2.

The downgrade places Malaysia in the same FAA category as neighbouring Thailand, as well as Bangladesh, Ghana and Costa Rica. The CAAM, however, vowed to regain its status as Category 1 regulator within 24 months following the downgrade last year.