



APTRA URGES 45 GOVERNMENTS ACROSS ASIA PACIFIC FOR REGIONAL ALIGNMENT ON AIRPORT TESTING AND QUARANTINE

Singapore 23 September 2020 The Asia Pacific Travel Retail Association (APTRA) has launched a campaign to over 45 individual governments across Asia Pacific with a proposal for regional alignment on quarantine rules and testing on arrival and departure at airports, in a move that would safeguard public health and promote industry recovery.

Reflecting the views of many of its member organisations and industry executives in duty free and travel retail, APTRA believes one of the biggest obstacles to industry recovery from the pandemic crisis is the fragmented inconsistency in rules related to quarantine & Covid-19 testing at airports.

Sunil Tuli, President of APTRA, echoes the sentiments of many in travel retail. “Alignment on quarantine and testing imperatives is a critical factor in facilitating the recovery of the travel retail industry. Aviation, tourism and hospitality are highly inter-dependent sectors with millions of livelihoods stuck in jeopardy until governments prioritise a regionally aligned strategy on quarantine and Covid-19 testing for travellers. Of course APTRA supports the prioritisation of national health and safety, yet it is frustrating that there is no joined-up approach between governments that would enable the re-opening of aviation to safeguard millions of jobs.”

APTRA believes there are efficient and robust rapid tests for Covid-19 that could be implemented at international borders, enabling a more reasonable approach to reduced quarantine timescales of perhaps 24 hours in the case of a negative result. The Italian government is already operating tests on arrival and is now trialling them on departure at Rome Fiumicino. Several airports in Asia Pacific are running efficient testing, e.g. Changi, Delhi, Hong Kong and Incheon. If governments were to endorse a harmonised approach to airport testing and quarantine, it would be a major step towards re-opening the aviation ecosystem and one that would restore consumer confidence.

The Asia Pacific market is integral to the global travel economy, and industry players across the travel and tourism sectors are rallying to ensure industry survival. Duty Free and Travel Retail in Asia Pacific creates over 320,000 jobs and the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) estimates 63.4 million jobs in tourism are currently at risk across the region.

<https://www.aptra.asia/>

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About APTRA

The Asia Pacific Travel Retail Association (APTRA) is a membership organisation whose vision is to represent all members of the association and to strengthen, nurture & protect the duty free and travel retail industry in the Asia Pacific region. APTRA's membership comprises landlords, retailers and brands, which is unique and adds richness to the association's work. APTRA's territory spans over 45 countries in Asia Pacific.

APTRA strengthens the knowledge base of the industry by supporting members through meaningful research, knowledge share, networking opportunities and advocating the industry when facing regulatory challenges. Commissioning relevant market research is one of the quality outputs of APTRA, the results of which are disseminated exclusively to members through private seminars, networking workshops and the Association website.

APTRA is on the alert constantly for legislative and regulatory challenges that may impact the duty free and travel retail industry. Working with members, fellow trade associations and related agencies, APTRA engages with governments and policy-makers to facilitate a deeper understanding of the industry's pivotal role in local communities, employment, travel infrastructure and the economies of the region.