



APTRA COVID-19 TESTING CAMPAIGN TO GOVERNMENTS STARTS TO GAIN TRACTION

Singapore 5 November 2020 Less than a month since its launch, 10 governments across Asia Pacific to date have already responded positively to APTRA's latest advocacy campaign which urges governments to implement standardised Covid-19 testing on passengers.

Across the aviation, travel and tourism industries, a wide range of stakeholders are increasingly aligned in calling for increased testing as a key recovery strategy – one that would ultimately equip governments to reopen borders safely and that could immediately reduce the onerous quarantine measures that are negatively impacting consumer appetite for travel.

Sunil Tuli, President of APTRA comments. "This campaign has definitely created the most positive response to date in 2020, from governments across the region. We are confident we have hit the right buttons, engaging several important ministers to formally recognise the issues facing the travel retail industry. Advocacy takes considerable effort behind the scenes and the results do take time. However, we have received personal responses from several senior officials and this recognition of APTRA, as a significant trade association, is a positive step towards the outcome our industry needs. APTRA will continue to engage with governments and, where possible, we will join forces with larger organisations in aviation such as IATA and ACI. This is an example of APTRA's power in presenting a collective, industry voice – one that represents all types and sizes of businesses in travel retail."

The responses received to date are from the following governments: Australia, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand. More responses are expected from the 45 governments targeted.

APTRA welcomes the news that the governments of Singapore and Hong Kong are close to an agreement to open an air travel bubble between the countries, expected to be operational in November 2020. From 6 November 2020, visitors from mainland China can enter Singapore without having to quarantine, subject to having a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test upon arrival at the airport. If the result is negative they will be allowed to travel freely within Singapore's borders.

ENDS <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.