

**Statement on Phuket Air Aircraft Incident
By Captain Chawanit Chiamcharoenvut
Executive Vice President, Phuket Air**

Given that one of Phuket Air's aircraft is now undergoing maintenance, coupled with a limited number of aircraft available for international routes, our active flight schedule has inevitably been affected. Phuket Air apologizes for any inconvenience caused by delays on our Bangkok-London and Bangkok-Amsterdam routes. We have had to reschedule these flights for appropriate operations and will advise all concerned parties once this process is complete.

Phuket Air is now actively working to transfer passengers to other airlines that serve the same destinations. As it is currently high season, these other airlines are heavily booked, which means we have not been able to transfer every passenger to an alternate flight. Therefore, we have arranged for food and accommodations for the remaining passengers who are waiting for the next available flights. We will also provide refunds to those who have cancelled their Phuket Air flights.

Phuket Air's management apologizes to all passengers who were adversely affected by the current delays in our flight schedules. We promise to reconcile the flight timetable so that we can carry the affected passengers to their destinations as soon as possible. Phuket Air has also facilitated the personal requests of affected passengers waiting for new flight arrangements.

Passengers who want more information about certain dates and travel times should contact Phuket Air's Airport Office at telephone number 02 535-6708, 02 535 6696 from Monday to Saturday, 08.30 to 22.00 hrs.; and on Sunday from 08.30 to 20.00 hrs.

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According to the news reporting about the Phuket Air Bangkok-London flight no. 9R618 incident, I would like to confirm that there was no flame and sparking as claimed in the news reports.

Following is the chronology of the incident:

Phuket Air operated flight no. 9R618 from Bangkok to London Gatwick on Saturday 2 April 2005. As a usual schedule, the aircraft stopped at Sharjah Airport, United Arab Emirates, at 04:30 am. next morning (local time) for re-fuelling prior to continuing the flight to London. After the completion, the aircraft was pushed back (had not yet started the engine) to be ready to taxi to the runway. During that time, there was an incident of fuel spillage from the aircraft's wing due to the excessive fuel in the surge tank. The pilot took the aircraft back to the parking bay to have the excessive fuel drained from the surge tank.

After the first drain, there was still some leftover. The plane was then taken back to the parking bay to re-drain the fuel. After that, the pilot has started the engine and prepared to take off again. During the aircraft turning from the taxi way to runway, the leftover fuel visibly spilled out from the aircraft wing. At that time, a few passengers who saw the spillage were panic, misunderstood and screamed "fire". A flight attendant then reported to the pilot about the situation. The pilot then decided to return to the parking

bay to ensure utmost safety and passengers' comfort.

During thorough examination, Phuket Air decided to accommodate all 366 passengers to rest in hotels in Sharjah on Phuket Air's expenses.

The next morning, Phuket Air welcomed passengers on board the same aircraft. The aircraft arrived London safely.

As soon as the plane landed, Department of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), United Kingdom, conducted a complete examination of the aircraft and concluded that the aircraft is in good condition and ready to be operated as usual. The same aircraft transported passengers from London back to Bangkok on normal flight schedule.

However, during the Sharjah's incident, a group of passengers refused to board the same aircraft. Phuket Air offered those passengers with extended accommodations while they awaited for next Phuket Air flight from Bangkok. For those who intended to fly with other airlines, Phuket Air had facilitated their requests. As of today, there is no passenger left at Sharjah. The aircraft had already left Sharjah at 15.35 hrs. (local time) and is scheduled to arrive London Gatwick at 19.35 hrs. (local time).

On behalf of Phuket Air, I reiterate that we always consider our passengers' safety as the first priority and we take all responsibility for passengers during the aircraft transfer.