



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

# News Release

**October 15, 2009**

**Karen Pride**  
**(773) 686-3700**  
[kpride@ohare.com](mailto:kpride@ohare.com)

## **CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION AND ABU DHABI AIRPORTS COMPANY SIGN “SISTER AIRPORT” AGREEMENT**

*Airports to share technical, commercial and environmental best practices*

CHICAGO – Today, officials from the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) and Abu Dhabi Airports Company (ADAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing O’Hare International and Abu Dhabi International Airports as “sister airports.” The agreement, signed today in Chicago, outlines a process for the airports to share technical, commercial and environmental best practices, and set up joint working groups to work cooperatively on a wide range of areas.

Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino of the CDA and His Excellency Khalifa Al Mazrouei, Chairman of ADAC, signed the agreement at a ceremony attended by members of a delegation from Abu Dhabi. The delegation is visiting Chicago to discuss business and economic opportunities with local leaders and to mark the recent introduction of non-stop air service by Etihad Airways, the Abu Dhabi-based national carrier of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

“On behalf of Mayor Richard M. Daley, we are honored and proud to establish this new partnership with Abu Dhabi International Airport,” said Commissioner Andolino. “The Cities of Chicago and Abu Dhabi have many similarities, including a vision for urban and economic growth with a focus on sustainability. We look forward to a long-term and mutually beneficial relationship between our airports.”

The MOU signed today will establish collaboration covering a number of areas, including technical cooperation and exchange, airport business and development opportunities, and on-the-job training. The CDA and ADAC will also explore business and commercial opportunities for their airports and customers, and the possibility of a professional technical exchange and development program for the airports’ personnel. In addition, the two airports will share ideas and experiences concerning airport sustainability, the promotion of green airports and the impact of green initiatives on the environment.

“The launch of Etihad Airways flight service between Abu Dhabi and Chicago offers great opportunities for our cities to work together, sharing our cultures and our experiences in many different sectors,” said Al Mazrouei. “Our vision is for Abu Dhabi to have one of the world’s leading airports and we have been investing in developing our infrastructure and our skills to the highest levels. This partnership brings us together with a truly world-class partner and we are looking forward to developing the many opportunities it represents.”

**SISTER AIRPORT AGREEMENT/page two**

Moving forward, professional and technical working groups will be created with members of the business community, the CDA, ADAC, Etihad Airways and the Gulf Centre for Aviation Studies (GCAS). GCAS is a new aviation think tank and human capital development entity supported by ADAC, the CDA and the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

~ ~ ~ ~

The Chicago Department of Aviation is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit [www.oharemodernization.org](http://www.oharemodernization.org) to learn more about the OMP.

Abu Dhabi International Airport served more than nine million passengers in 2008, up from nearly seven million in 2007. The airport opened its new Terminal 3 this year, expanding its annual capacity to 12 million passengers. Work is under way on the airport's Midfield Terminal Complex, which will extend capacity up to 40 million annually.

###

Editor's Note: Photos attached (high resolution photos available upon request)

**PHOTO 1**



Photo 1 caption:

His Excellency Khalifa Al Mazrouei, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Airports Company (ADAC) and Director General, Abu Dhabi Municipality, and Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Aviation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing O'Hare International and Abu Dhabi International Airports as "sister airports." The agreement outlines a process for the airports to share technical and commercial practices, as well as a wide range of issues. The event was held in Chicago on Oct. 15, 2009.

Photo credit: City of Chicago

**SISTER AIRPORT AGREEMENT/page three**

PHOTO 2



Photo 2 caption:

Representatives from the City of Chicago Department of Aviation and the Abu Dhabi Airports Company (ADAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing O'Hare International and Abu Dhabi International Airports as "sister airports." The agreement outlines a process for the airports to share technical and commercial practices, as well as a wide range of issues. The event was held in Chicago on Oct. 15, 2009.

*Pictured left to right:* Yousef Al Otaiba, Ambassador, UAE Embassy; Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner, City of Chicago Department of Aviation; James Hogan, CEO Etihad Airways; His Excellency Khalifa Al Mazrouei, Chairman of ADAC and Director General, Abu Dhabi Municipality and Michael Zalewski, Alderman and Vice-chair of the Committee of Aviation, City of Chicago, 23rd Ward.

Photo credit: City of Chicago