



THE IATA AGENTS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Central Secretariat

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PRESS RELEASE

10th March 2017

Inauguration of Cochin international airport's T3 Terminal

The completed International Terminal – T3 at Cochin International Airport, spread over an expanse of 15 lakhs sq. ft., is to be inaugurated on 11th March 2017 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan in the august presence of MPs, MLAs, Heads of Local Civic Bodies, CIAL Directors and Investors.

That moment of jubilant celebrations will be marred by the omission of the Travel & Tourism Trade in Kerala who have not been invited by the CIAL for this function. It is a sad but true fact that CIAL has failed to recognize the Members of that Industry who, on the other hand, have been "paying dividends" to CIAL and, by their wholehearted support and commitment, have been solely instrumental for CIAL's phenomenal growth over the years in terms of increased airline operations and passenger footfalls.


Though all the National Travel & Tourism Trade Associations are represented in Kerala through their respective State Committees, this is the 2nd time that CIAL has ignored the value of the Travel Trade services, the previous occasion being at the formal inauguration of T3 that took place on 26th February 2016 by the then Chief Minister Shri Oommen Chandy.

Airlines can only operate the flights and an airport can only provide the operational facilities to the airlines - neither of them can fill the aircrafts with passengers. 80% of international and 65% of domestic sales are still being done by the traditional travel agents. The success of an airport in terms of traffic volumes is always dependant on the sincere support and coordination of Travel, Cargo and Tour organizations.

Even the airline operators do not feature in the 'Programme' among the list of speakers offering felicitations on this important occasion.

Though the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is the first green field airport in the country built with public-private partnership, this 'show' will likely turn out to be just a 'private' one involving only the CIAL Officials.

for IAAI


Biji Eapen
National President

