



AGRO FOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(Agro Food Chamber)

வேளாண் உணவு தொழில் வர்த்தக சங்கம்

Agro Food Trade Centre Campus

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02.09.2024

PRESS RELEASE

Sub: Meeting with the Chairman of Airports Authority of India during his Madurai Camp by the office-bearers of Agro Food Chamber to persuade the long pending demands for the development of Madurai Airport - Press Release - for favour of publication - reg.

The office bearers of Agro Food Chamber of Commerce & Industry, under the leadership of President Thiru S.Rethinavelu along with Secretary Thiru K.Thiruppathi Rajan, Vice-Presidents Thiru K.Suresh Kumar and Thiru R.Saravana Kumaran, met the Chairman of Airports Authority of India Shri M.Suresh on Sunday (01.09.2024) night at Madurai. They had a detailed discussion with him and insisted the long pending demands for the development of Madurai Airport, particularly 24 x 7 functioning of Madurai Airport, upgrading Madurai Airport as an International Airport and including Madurai Airport as a point of call in the Bi-lateral Airport Services Agreement (BASA) with neighbouring Countries after submitting a detailed memorandum.

Shri M.Suresh assured to take up all these issues with the Civil Aviation Minister and do the needful for the development of Madurai Airport. The Madurai Airport Director Shri P.Muthukumar and other officials were present.

The detailed memorandum submitted with these three demands and a photo taken on the occasion are attached herewith. Please publish the same in your esteemed daily and oblige.

With Regards,
S. RETHINAVELU
President.

Attachment: As above.

Vice Presidents

K.SURESH KUMAR J.K.MUTHU R. SARAVANA KUMARAN R.C.RAMKUMAR V.SENTHIL KUMAR

Joint Secretaries

S.RAMAKRISHNAN T.G.M.RAMESH S.SARAVANAPRABU C.RAJAMOORTHY

"The Chamber to boost GDP of India"



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**Memorandum Submitted to
Shri M.Suresh
Chairman, The Airports Authority of India
at Madurai
on 1st September, 2024.**

Hearty greetings to you Sir. On behalf of Agro Food Chamber of Commerce and Industry we heartily congratulate you on assuming the position of Chairman, Airports Authority of India and we offer our felicitations. We thank you for the appointment given to our Chamber to meet you and make representation for the development of Madurai Airport.

We, would like to bring to your kind notice that despite several valid representations made, the growth of MADURAI AIRPORT is being neglected. Consequently, the air passengers from South Tamilnadu are deprived of the convenience to board from Madurai Airport to fly directly to the neighbouring international destinations, with which they are having rich ethnic, and business relationship besides phenomenal growth of tourism including pilgrimage and medical tourism.

1. 24 X 7 HOURS OPERATION

The Madurai Airport Authority have already submitted a letter long back expressing their readiness to operate 24 x 7 hours. It is very unfortunate that Madurai Airport, without 24 x 7 hours operation, the existing infrastructure facilities are under-utilized. We have got all infrastructure for night landing and take-off. Madurai Airport will have more flights both domestic and international, when it works in the night shift also. Several international flight services are diverted to other airports for want of 24 x 7 facility, consequently the industrial development of southern and south-central districts of Tamilnadu is affected. We feel very sorry that even though it was officially announced that 24 x 7 hours operation would be introduced at Madurai Airport from 1st April, 2023, it was not implemented for the reasons best known to the Civil Aviation Ministry. Only hindrance is inadequate CISF personnel at Madurai Airport. Is it such a difficult job for the AAI to allocate required CISF personnel to operate the Night Shift despite having infrastructure? Madurai Air Passengers will enjoy concessional fare journey in midnight and very early morning if night parking is allowed at Madurai Airport. 24 x 7 operation should be expedited without any further delay.

Vice Presidents

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2. UPGRADING THE STATUS OF MADURAI AIRPORT AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

We from trade and industry and general public do not get any convincing answer for not upgrading Madurai Airport as an International Airport inspite of the fact that Madurai Airport being one among the 10 Customs Airport in India, is the top performer in handling international passengers with only three international destinations, as against some of the International Airports. We do not understand the policy in upgrading an Airport as an International Airport in our Country. Some Airports are declared as International Airport even before construction, whereas best performer, like Madurai Airport is not recognized. For instance Kannur, Ayodhya Airports were declared as International Airports even before construction and similarly Sabarimala also. Madurai with world famous Sree Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and being a tourism centre and considering the future developments of Madurai Airport with more domestic and international connectivity flights potentiality, Madurai Airport should be declared as International Airport. All the infra for an International Airport is almost available at Madurai Airport and only a signature from the Civil Aviation Ministry is required.

3. POINT OF CALL IN THE BI-LATERAL AIRPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT (BASA)

Including Madurai Airport as a point of call in the Bi-lateral Airport Services Agreement (BASA) with neighbouring countries, within a distance of about 4,000 kms, particularly with Singapore, Malaysia, Qatar, Kuwait and UAE such as Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi would enable the airliners of those countries to operate direct flights to Madurai, and in fact, which those countries are demanding, but our Civil Aviation Ministry is denying for no valid reason. Our domestic airliners are not able to provide required direct flights from Madurai to those international destinations. More international connectivity is required for Madurai to attract international investments to south Tamilnadu.

We eagerly await good things to happen to Madurai Airport within the possible earliest time.

Cordially Yours,



(S.Rethinavelu)

President.

Member of Madurai Airport Advisory Committee.