## **PR** News

Airports of Thailand Public Co., Ltd. (AOT) gets on with an implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway Construction for Suvarnabhumi Airport Expansion Project which, through an e-bidding procurement process, the construction contract has been awarded to TN Consortium, comprising Thanomwongse Service Co., Ltd. and Nawarat Patanakarn Public Co., Ltd. Being commenced on 8 September, 2020; the Project is anticipated to be completed by the year 2023, after 3 years' construction period, bearing the cost of Baht 9.7133 billion in total.

Suvarnabhumi Airport is currently having 2 runways in operation with 68 flights per hour capacity. In case of emergency or when either runway closure is required for rehabilitation, the runway overall capacity will be adversely affected as once experienced during June and August, 2012; when the east runway (Runway #2) was closed for rehabilitation, resulting in the decrease of the airport capacity to merely 34 flights per hour, whereas the number of flights during peak hour was as high as 50. This prompted the delay of both inbound and outbound flights, leading to the waste of fuel and passengers' travel time.

The  $3^{rd}$  runway of 60 x 4,000 meters' size (W x L) is being constructed in the west of Suvarnabhumi Airport, in parallel with the existing runway (Runway #1). Once completed, the airport capacity will be maximized to 94 flights per hour (800 – 1,000 flights per day). And because the existing cargo warehouse, including all its relevant activities, is situated in the west of the airport, this new runway will benefit air freight transportation by shortening the cargo flight taxiing distance and time, which is one of the factors that will encourage Suvarnabhumi Airport as a regional aviation hub in the future.

Approved by the National Environment Board (NEB), the Project EHIA report contains noise impact mitigation measure, where compensation will be made to those affected by the Project-originated noise pollution. Furthermore, to express transparency in its operation and management, the Project also takes into account the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST) and Integrity Pact (IP) programs, which are in compliance with the Government Procurement and Inventory Management Act, B.E. 2560; making it verifiable while prioritizing procurement efficacy so that the best interest of the public could be achieved.