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CAAS, NTU to set up new air traffic institute

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BY THEN AI PING - 5 HOURS 59 MIN AGO

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The Air Traffic Management Research Institute (ATMRI) will conduct research on improving air ground traffic management, weather forecast and information management, aircraft separation management and human performance to enhance the safety and efficiency of air traffic.

Passenger numbers are expected to almost triple in the Asia-Pacific from 779.6 million in 2010 to over 2.2 billion in 2030, while cargo volumes are projected to rise at a similar rate of 6.3 per cent per year. Challenges like high traffic volume in the air and on the ground, more complex air traffic flows and weather-induced disruptions are also expected to rise.

Said CAAS Director-General Yap Ong Heng: "We see it important to be involved as we provide the operational input and ensure that the concept developments and solutions are application in addressing the challenges we face."

Mr Yap said the institute would help develop and improve on Singapore's current systems. The CAAS will provide S\$50 million in funding to the ATMRI, and to ATM experts such as policymakers, traffic controllers and engineers for research projects.

The NTU will provide in-kind contributions of S\$22 million, including research manpower and facilities.

NTU Provost Freddy Boey said that through the ATMRI, more of NTU's

research will be translated into feasible applications. “This generates knowledge, know-how and provides critical manpower needed for research in ATM, which help build up and nurture intellectual and human capital for ATM R&D in Singapore and beyond,” he said.

The institute will be ready by the end of the year and will be officially launched early next year. Then Ai Ping