

JB and KK airports soaring in the region

Both ranked among the busiest and fastest growing

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PETALING JAYA: Johor's Senai and Sabah's Kota Kinabalu international airports are among the busiest in South-East Asia following the reopening of Malaysia's borders.

Global travel data firm OAG ranked Senai as the fourth fastest growing international airport in the region last month, while Kota Kinabalu landed ninth.

According to OAG's South-East Asia Aviation Market Report for June 2022, the number of seats for international flights departing Johor Baru grew in June by 74% to 8,460 compared with May.

Kota Kinabalu recorded a 28%

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rise in the number of seats to 15,920. In first place was Vietnam's Cam Ranh International Airport which saw a 429% jump in seats.

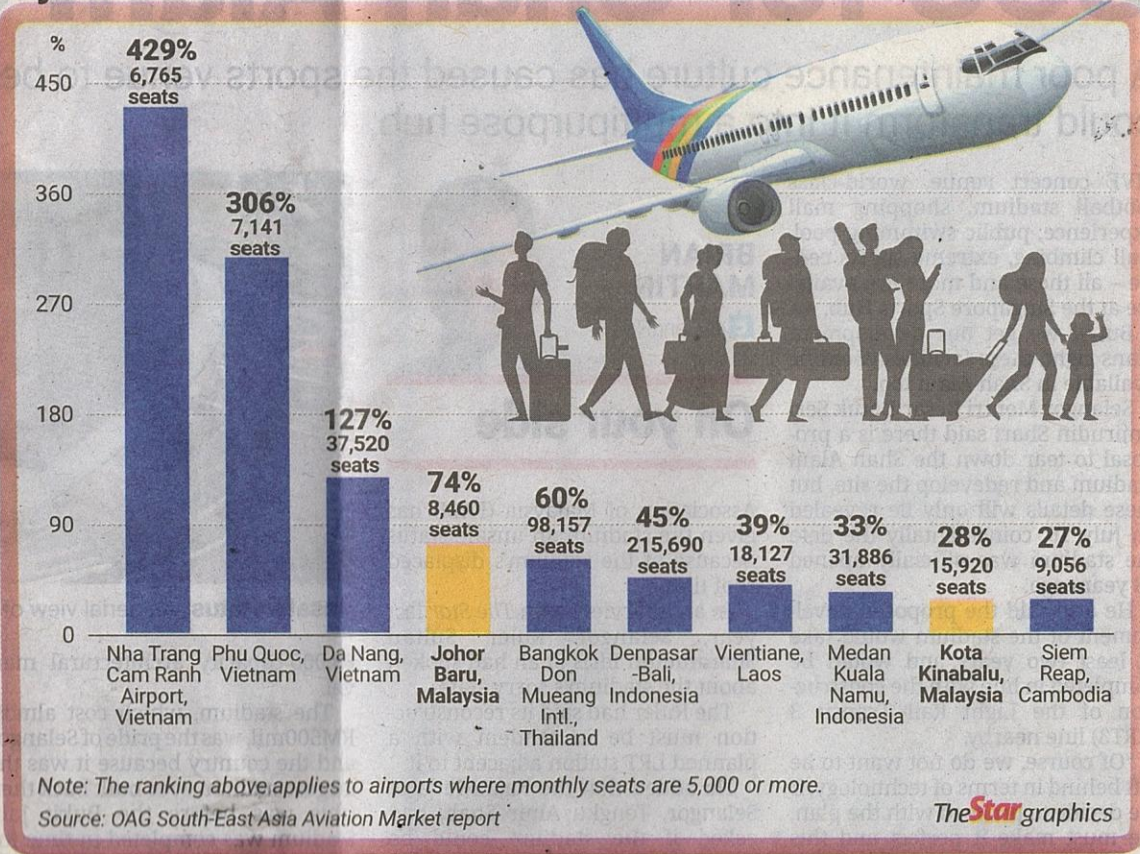
The closure of Malaysia's borders due to the pandemic shrank tourist arrivals down to a trickle with arrivals falling from 26.1 million in 2019 to a mere 134,728 last year.

Arrivals however have shot up again since the borders re-opened in April.

It hit two million for this year on June 21.

Mayur Patel, OAG Aviation's head of Asia, said South-East Asia faced a

Top 10 fastest growing international airports in South-East Asia by international seats - June 2022



number of challenges in further ramping up its air travel recovery to pre-pandemic levels.

"Until we see China once again freely allowing international services, many airlines will struggle to increase capacity beyond what we see today," he said.

"Airlines in the region also face a number of resource challenges in terms of aircraft availability and qualified staff, which add further complexity to any more of a recovery," he added.

In terms of the total number of departing seats, Kuala Lumpur International Airport was ranked seventh in South-East Asia with 1.35 million seats in June.

Indonesia's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport topped the region with three million seats.

The Kuala Lumpur to Singapore route was meanwhile ranked as the world's second busiest for June 2022 with 271,886 seats.

In first place was the New York (JFK) to London (Heathrow) route, with 281,375 seats.

For the South-East Asian region, the Penang to Singapore route was the 10th busiest with 78,360 seats.

The OAG report also ranked the top 10 airlines in the region by departing seats, with AirAsia listed fifth with 1.65 million seats.

Malaysia Airlines was 10th with 955,46 seats while Lion Air was first with 3.6 million seats.

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