



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AirAsia Berhad announces the appointment of new Chief Executive Officer**

**SEPANG, 13 DECEMBER 2017** -AirAsia, the world's best low-cost airline, today announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for its Malaysia-based operations.

Riad Asmat has been named as the new CEO of AirAsia Berhad, and will assume his post effectively on January 10, 2018. Riad will report directly to Bo Lingam, Deputy Group CEO (Airlines Business) of AirAsia.

Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, AirAsia Group CEO said "On behalf of the board members and AirAsia Allstars, we welcome the appointment of Riad as the CEO of AirAsia Berhad. Riad is no stranger to AirAsia as we have known him since Caterham F1 days where he was the President reporting to Datuk Kamarudin and I. He has also dealt with GE and Airbus during that time in terms of sponsorship and technology collaborations. Hence, we are fully confident that Riad will lead the company into the next phase of its development. Riad's appointment and Aireen's transition will provide support for continued success".

Prior to his appointment as CEO, Riad was Director for Corporate Planning, Strategy & Business Development, Naza Corporation Holdings Sdn Bhd. Riad has grown the company across business functions in Automotive, Property, Construction, Food & Beverage and Telecommunications. Before joining Naza, Riad was the President/CEO of Catherham Automotive in UK. He was responsible for the creation, implementing and coordinating key initiatives conceptualized to improving the overall performance of the automotive business along key dimensions such as strategic, operational and finance.

As a CEO of AirAsia Berhad, Riad joins a dynamic team which already includes Tassapon Bijleveld, CEO of AirAsia Thailand; Dendy Kurniawan, CEO of AirAsia Indonesia; Captain Dexter Comendador, CEO of AirAsia Philippines; Amar Abrol, CEO of AirAsia India and Osamu Hata, CEO of AirAsia Japan – all of whom report directly to Bo Lingam.

In accepting the appointment as CEO of AirAsia Malaysia, Riad said, "I am humbled and honoured to lead AirAsia Berhad as the CEO. AirAsia which was recently named the World's Leading Low Cost Airline for the fifth year in a row at the 2017 World Travel Awards grand finals, in addition to the Skytrax's nine times World's Best Low Cost Airline title is indeed a world champion in the industry. I am looking forward to working closely with the co-founders Tan Sri Tony, Datuk Kamarudin, the Board of Directors, the dynamic management and over 22,000 dedicated Allstars to continue achieving greater heights for the company."

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## **About AirAsia**

AirAsia, the leading and largest low-cost carrier in Asia by passengers carried, services an extensive network of more than 130 destinations. Since starting operations in 2001, AirAsia has carried more than 400 million guests and grown its fleet from just two aircraft to over 200. The airline is proud to be a truly Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) airline with established operations based in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines as well as India and Japan, servicing a network stretching across Asia, Australia and New Zealand, the Middle East and the US. AirAsia has been named the World's Best Low-Cost Airline at the annual Skytrax World Airline Awards nine times in a row from 2009 to 2017. AirAsia was also awarded World's Leading Low-Cost Airline for the fourth consecutive year at the 2016 World Travel Awards, where it beat a field of full-service carriers to become the first ever low-cost carrier to win World's Leading Inflight Service.

## **For media enquiries, please contact:**

### **Amzar Anizam**

Communications

Mobile: +6017 988 8678

[muhamadamzar@airasia.com](mailto:muhamadamzar@airasia.com)