

SHANGHAI NOW

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Pudong Airport to expand capacity despite pandemic

Yang Jian

DESPITE a sharp decrease in the number of outbound travelers amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Shanghai's major air transport hub continues to expand its capacity to handle over 100 million travelers a year.

The Phase-4 expansion of Shanghai Pudong International Airport includes a new terminal to meet both the rising demands of air travel and the city's ambition of becoming the world's top shipping and air transport center, the Shanghai Airport Authority said.

The T3 terminal is expected to serve 50 million passengers annually.

On completion, Pudong airport will be able to handle 130 million air travelers a year by 2030, on par with the world's top air hubs such as London's Heathrow and Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport in the US.

T3 will have twin buildings with nearly 100 aircraft bays for international and domestic flights separately.

The design, dubbed "Soaring," looks like a hawk spreading its wings.

"T3 will set a new standard for large domestic airports in terms of the capacity for international travelers as well as the number of aircraft stands

for direct boarding and transferring," said Zhou Junlong, vice president of the Shanghai Airport Authority.

Zhou told a previous press conference the new terminal will cover 1.19 million square meters to the south of the S1 and S2 satellite terminals.

A new transport center, stretching 1.03 million square meters, will be built and attached to the T3 terminal.

It will be more convenient for air travelers to transfer to public transportation and to catch connecting flights.

Multiple public transport systems, such as the Airport Express Line, Metro lines 2 and 21, as well as the Shanghai East Railway Station, are connected with the new terminal.

Shanghai aims to become the world's top shipping and air transport center by 2025.

The first-class international hub will feature convenient and efficient transportation, an integrated network, and green and intelligent operations, according to the Shanghai Transport Commission.

Over 100 airlines were in operation at the Pudong and Hongqiao airports by 2019 with flights to 314 destinations in 50 countries and regions.

The airports handled 120 million passengers annually along with some 4 million tons of cargo, ranking fourth on



A view from the Satellite Hall at the Shanghai Pudong International Airport. — Dong Jun

passenger turnover and third on cargo among all airports across the world.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the two airports handled about a third of China's inbound and outbound overseas flights as well as half of imported and exported coronavirus prevention supplies.

The airport authority finished its Phase-3 project, which included a satellite terminal covering 620,000 square meters, in 2019.

The H-shaped terminal building, the world's largest, is about 700 meters from the existing T1 and T2 terminals.



The three terminal buildings and a satellite terminal of the Pudong airport. — Ti Gong

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