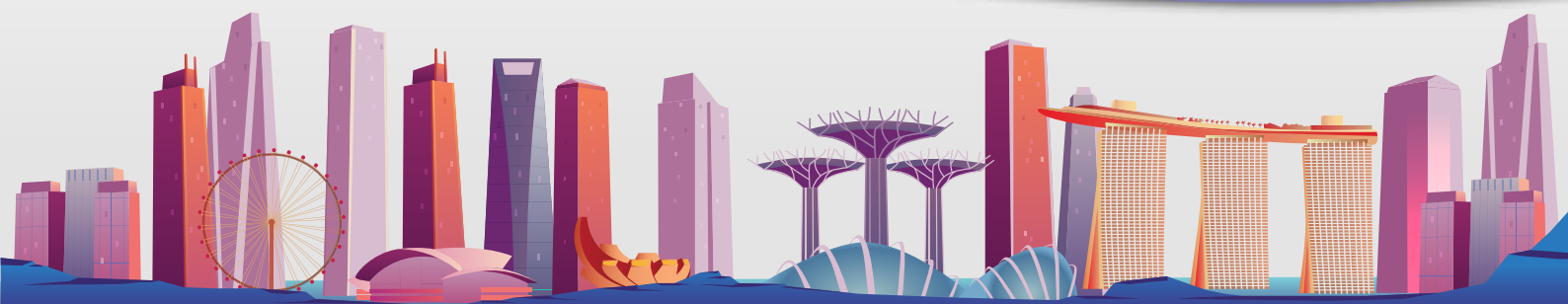


SUSTAINABLE AVIATION – THE FUTURE IS GREEN

Climate change is a generational and existential threat. Our global economy is tightly intertwined with aviation as it facilitates commerce and connects people to the world. As air travel increases, there is a global focus on understanding the environmental impacts of aviation.

Sustainability will be a key priority for Singapore's aviation sector in the coming years as it revives air travel and rebuilds the Singapore air hub. Our featured professionals share what airport and airline stakeholders are doing individually and collectively to achieve a sustainable air hub.



JAYZHANG

Senior Associate, Airport Operations Planning & Strategy,
Changi Airport Group
2 Years in Aviation



THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY AVIATION CAREER

I joined CAG in February 2020, when Covid-19 had started spreading in Asia and around the world. Rather than let a crisis hold us back, one of CAG's initiatives to re-imagine and re-invent airport operations was to electrify the entire fleet of ground support equipment. We have now fully converted our ramp tractors to electric ones. With a fully electrified airside fleet, we estimate the carbon abatement potential to be equivalent to the annual carbon footprint of over 2,600 Singaporeans. In this process, I learnt that setting policy targets requires constant engagement with our technical colleagues, airport partners, and equipment manufacturers to chart a path towards greater electrification, to ensure that our electrical infrastructure can take on the additional load from charging vehicles and more importantly that these targets, while they should challenge us, must also be achievable.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Together with my team, I look at pertinent issues that can impact the resiliency of airport ground operations. There is never a dull day at work; we could be discussing anything from short-term measures to ensure business continuity in the face of a pandemic, medium-term trends in operational and safety indicators, to long-term policy positions on sustainability and fleet electrification.

More recently, after two years of air travel disruption, we are closely monitoring the recovery in passenger traffic, to ensure that we continue to deliver the Changi Experience that our customers know us for, while assuring the safety of our airport partners and our staff.

CAREER PROGRESSION PATH

CAG was my first full-time job out of university. Prior to graduating, I had interned at a logistics firm, a non-profit organisation, and CAG. The latter left me the deepest impression, and when I was offered to return full-time, I jumped at the opportunity.

HOW I GOT INTO AVIATION

I come from a military family. Growing up, I spent the better part of a decade in air bases locally and abroad. My own military service also saw me deployed in support of an air training exercise in the region. These years piqued my interest in aviation and the skies. Having majored in operations management, I saw how well-executed plans and people with a common mission can allow an organisation to scale and achieve more than the sum of its parts. I thus decided to seek a career where I could marry the two and experience the best of both worlds.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS/ SKILL SETS REQUIRED

Aviation is a highly competitive industry. We constantly seek growth areas to drive value and look for ways to maximise productivity. As digital natives, our ease and experience with new, innovative ways of working should lead us to constantly think of how we can challenge and reinvent established practices. We should be able to communicate these ideas confidently and clearly to our colleagues to drive adoption.

ANY ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS LOOKING TO JOIN YOUR CAREER

When you join a team in crisis, the only way is up. Let not the pandemic discourage you from pursuing your interests and passion; after all, aircraft are the most stable when they take off into the wind.

LEO LI

**Manager,
Airport Ops Planning & Strategy,
Changi Airport Group**
8 Years in Aviation



THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY AVIATION CAREER

At the height of the pandemic, I was involved in a special project to bring overseas Singaporeans home and to maintain Singapore's connectivity with high-risk regions. It was both physically and mentally challenging, but the happy faces of arriving passengers, and many who thanked us for our efforts, reaffirmed my sense of purpose and kept me going during the sector's darkest hours.

Currently, I am involved in the pilot trial of SAF in Changi. This will be the first time SAF is uplifted to commercial aircraft in Singapore, and all Singapore Airlines and Scoot flights will be using the blended SAF sometime this year. The trial alone could reduce 2,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, and I look forward to working on this project in Singapore to make flying greener.

JOB DESCRIPTION

I study and propose policies and strategies with regard to the development and oversight of critical airport services. I am tasked to enable strategic decisions around airport capacity and operations, such as projects related to Covid-19 operations and Terminal 5, to support traffic recovery as well as to shape the future of Changi. One important objective is to move Changi Airport towards greater sustainability, such as the introduction of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) at Changi, as well as the exploration of sustainable diesel to reduce CAG's Scope 1 carbon emissions.

CAREER PROGRESSION PATH

I started my career with a global inflight catering company as a management trainee. Working on a spectrum of strategic projects, I spent months living in Australia, Japan, and Hong Kong. Wanting to deepen my operational experience, I then moved to a local ground handler before joining CAG about five years ago.

HOW I GOT INTO AVIATION

When I was young, like many others, I was fascinated by the roaring of planes taking off and at how elegant those big birds looked in the sky. Through my undergraduate studies in Political Science and European Studies, I learned how air transport provides significant economic and social benefits. In particular, civil aviation played pivotal roles in many historical events and changed the lives of millions of ordinary people (a notable example would be the Berlin Airlift). I wanted to play a role in this transformative industry and am extremely fortunate to have started my career here.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS/ SKILL SETS REQUIRED

Patience. Having to manage both internal and external stakeholders, balancing needs and requirements to create win-win solutions for both parties is a delicate act. Other important skills are the ability to analyse and distil an overload of information to pick out the most pertinent findings, particularly in new and emerging areas, such as the production of SAF. I believe how these findings are translated into succinct and concise write-ups is what differentiates good policy work from the rest.

ANY ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS LOOKING TO JOIN YOUR CAREER

As we reinvigorate today's aviation industry to be more sustainable while meeting increased demand in the future, we will definitely face challenges along the way. Always maintain a positive rate of climb, just like how airplanes take off against strong headwind.

VANESSA LENG

Senior Executive Design and Branding,
Singapore Airlines Limited

2 Years in Aviation



THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY AVIATION CAREER

One of the highlights of my career was conducting the first waste audit for Singapore Airlines (SIA) and kickstarting the inflight segregation of polyethylene (PET) bottles, as well as being part of the team to introduce initiatives to reduce and manage waste. For example, replacing plastic with paper straws and poly-bags for children's toys with FSC-certified paper packaging helps to reduce the take-off weight of SIA aircraft, resulting in reduced fuel consumption on flights. This translates to lower carbon emissions across the group network. Other aspects of my career include contributing to design aspects of key projects such as new aircraft and lounge development, building relationships with reputable international and local brands, and driving inflight waste management initiatives.

JOB DESCRIPTION

My key role involves design reviews which cover the look and feel (colour, material, finish) of interior design elements such as furniture and lighting to ensure the aesthetics meet our branding requirements. I also engage both internal and external stakeholders to reduce single-use plastics and on waste sent for incineration as part of the company's corporate sustainability efforts to manage waste. My branding role also includes working with suitable and like-minded partners for mutually beneficial collaborations that can elevate customer experiences.

CAREER PROGRESSION PATH

As a young executive, there is still much to learn about my role, especially in the area of sustainability, which is an emerging area of focus in aviation. I hope to be involved in more collaborative sustainability projects.

HOW I GOT INTO AVIATION

I have a personal interest in aesthetics and design and was open to learning more about branding and sustainability. The lure of working with an internationally renowned airline like Singapore Airlines was a bonus.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS/ SKILL SETS REQUIRED

Passion in aesthetics, project management, attention to detail, interpersonal skills.

ANY ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS LOOKING TO JOIN YOUR CAREER

To persevere despite setbacks.