

Japan lends Sri Lanka \$375m for new terminal

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government has ratified the country's earlier agreement to lend Sri Lanka ¥45bn (\$375m) to considerably expand and improve Sri Lanka's Bandaranaike International Airport with the creation of a state-of-the-art new terminal.



In an official statement from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's office earlier this week, both leaders reaffirmed that the project is going ahead with the two countries continuing to cooperate on 'sustainable economic growth' in Sri Lanka, under the 'Partnership for Quality Infrastructure' initiative.

Top right: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake on the deal for the camera last week.

This ratification follows Shinzo Abe's meeting with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in Tokyo last week where both parties confirmed the airport agreement as an integral part of discussions covering several issues, including an overall expansion of the bilateral relationship between the two countries, including security, politics and economics.



An artists impression of how the outside of the terminal building may look when it is finished.

The new loan will fund a new passenger terminal which will be integrated with the existing Terminal 1 and consist of eight gates – plus remote facilities – incorporating 'simple wayfinding', comprehensive duty free arrivals and departure shopping and a passenger handling capacity of 15m a year.

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Duty free arrivals and departures shops will both feature in the new terminal, as they do today. Flemingo and World Duty Free are the two duty free operators at the airport at present.

According to the Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka), the present capacity stands at 6m passenger movements per annum. The new two-tier passenger terminal with separate arrivals and departures passenger flows will be opened in two stages, with the first scheduled to open in early 2017.