PREFACE

The civil aviation sector had been growing exponentially over the past few years because of the Government’s Open Sky Policy and the economic boom. The winds of the proposed liberalisation in the aviation sector could soon offer more choices to the international traveller back and forth. Airports being nuclei of economic activity assume a significant role in the national economy. The quality of airport infrastructure, which is a vital component of the overall transportation network, contributes directly to a country’s international competitiveness and economic flow of foreign investment.

CIAL having become one of the busiest airports in the country in terms of both traffic and turn over, the entire region of Nedumbassery and its neighbouring areas are on a fast development track. The Cochin International Airport is fast becoming a favoured destination of domestic and international carriers in the country. A large number of tourists are travelling through this airport. Therefore an attempt is being made to study the impact of CIAL on the development of tourism in Kerala as well as to find out whether the facilities available at CIAL to the passengers are sufficient.

This study entitled “The Economic Impact of CIAL in the Development of Tourism in Kerala with special reference to Cochin” is an investigation into the growth and performance of tourism, passenger movement and flight movement through this airport. This study is organised into seven chapters and is based on primary data and secondary data.
Various statistical techniques were employed to analyse the data. These included percentages, chi-square test etc. Tabular and graphic analysis have been used wherever necessary.

In studying the impact of CIAL in the development of tourism in Kerala, tourism growth, tourism products, tourism agencies in Kerala, the structure and growth of CIAL, passenger movement, tourists flow to Cochin, facilities available in the CIAL etc. have been considered.

To examine the impact of CIAL on tourism in Kerala, an analysis of country wise classification of tourists, gender wise classification, airlines used by the tourists, purpose wise arrival of tourists, agencies arranging trips to Kerala, stay of tourists, mode of transport, passenger amenities available in Kerala and Cochin Airport has been made.

The study recommends a number of policy measures like Hydrant Refuelling System, Cloak room facilities, opening up of Quick Exchange Counters within the check-in area, strengthening of Emigration personnel at the airport, providing quality food at subsidized rates, active Tourist Information Counter at the terminals, encouraging more Charter flights into Cochin, provision of Public Transport Systems from airport and Prepaid Tourist Package at the airport, Grievance Redressal Cell, Guest room facilities, internet facilities within the terminals etc.

This study would be of great help to the planners, and policy makers to take appropriate decisions and can initiate further research in different aspects of aviation industries.