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**CAAM CERTIFIES THE FIRST REMOTE PILOT TRAINING ORGANISATION  
IN MALAYSIA**

PUTRAJAYA – The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) is pleased to announce the issuance of the first Certificate of Approval (COA) to two Approved Training Organisation for Remote Pilot Training Organisation (ATO-RPTO). This is part of CAAM's commitment to further support the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) or drone industry by providing a strong foundation to allow potential remote pilots to be fully trained with the required skills by going through comprehensive remote pilot training. ATO-RPTO is an organisation approved by CAAM to submit reports for theoretical knowledge instruction and flight instruction and assessment in relation to the competency of remote pilots. An ATO-RPTO assesses the competency of remote pilots against a specific set of requirements and to issue the appropriate certificates.

UAV Academy of Asia Sdn Bhd and Air Asia Group Berhad received the RPTO COA under regulation 64 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 2016 which authorises them to conduct examination or test and to provide course of training or instruction in accordance with the attached training specification. UAV Academy of Asia Sdn Bhd, which has been in the drone industry for the past 3 years, whilst Air Asia Group Berhad, a multinational low-cost airline, have both met the standards, requirements and procedures pertaining to the provisions for RPTO authorised by CAAM.

UAV Academy of Asia Sdn Bhd received approvals for training courses that covers RCoC-B (Basic) which allows all Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) operations conducted under Special UAS Project Approval (SUP Approval) and Module 2 (AGR) [Agricultural UAS Operations] that allows the certificate holders to operate operations for agricultural UAS works. Meanwhile, Air Asia Group Berhad received approvals for training courses that covers RCoC-B (Basic), Module 1 EVLOS (Extended Visual Line of Sight operations), Safety Management System (SMS) and Crew Resource Management (CRM).

CAAM will continue to assist and provide guidance to new organisations to ensure that an application as an ATO-RPTO meets all requirements and to ensure continued compliance to regulations. Drone activities in Malaysia are currently bounded by the Civil Aviation Regulation 2016 (MCAIR 2016) Regulation 140-144 and three Civil Aviation Directives (CADs). Active discussions on regulations are a good sign for Malaysia's fast-growing drone economy as looking at developed and neighbouring countries, clear regulations have driven growth in those countries, and CAAM expects to see the same in Malaysia.

With the growing number of ATO-RPTO in Malaysia and more remote pilots being certified, a solid regulatory framework and a standardised curriculum approved by CAAM will provide even greater confidence for organisations and for the industries to expand investments into drone technology. This will increase employment opportunities across industries utilising drones such as energy, surveying, surveillance, agriculture and many more. Furthermore, companies will be more open to investing in people and technology whilst having a stronger reassurance and understanding of regulations regarding drone operations. With the advent of this relatively new industry, the utilisation of human capital competency to a higher level will be achieved. Productivity, efficiency, and greater competency will be some of the multiple effects for greater use of drone applications.

Drones are part of the aviation sector and operating in public airspace may pose a risk to the public, however, for Malaysia to be recognised as a regional drone hub, it must first safeguard the public from possible adverse scenarios in commercial drone operations. As technology continues to evolve and play a larger role in everyday lives, CAAM will continue to facilitate and support the dynamic growth of the drone industry whilst upholding the safety and security of Malaysian airspace and protecting the interest of the public and the industry. CAAM looks forward to seeing more competent drone operators step up and be part of this technology growth.

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