

China Eastern to become SkyTeam alliance member by 2011

China Eastern Alliance Corp., one of the three leading Chinese carriers, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the SkyTeam alliance, a group of global airlines led by Korean Air Lines Co., the South Korean carrier said Friday.

Under the preliminary deal, China Eastern Airlines will become a formal member of the SkyTeam alliance in mid-2011, allowing the Chinese carrier to share mileage points and airport facilities with other members of the alliance, which include Air France and Delta, Korean Air said in a statement.

The SkyTeam alliance, first established in June 2000 by Aero Mexico, Air France, Delta, and Korean Air, currently has 11 members including the China Southern Airlines Co., who was the first Chinese member to join the alliance in 2007, it added.

China Eastern, founded in 1988, is one of the top three airlines in China that has some 80 international and 330 domestic flight routes, reaching 110 destinations.

*Source: Xinhua*

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