AirAsia has grown from a domestic airline in Malaysia into Asia’s leading low-cost airline serving more than 130 destinations across Asia Pacific. AirAsia has a fleet of 274 modern planes that fly more than 400 routes to 150+ destinations in 25 markets.

AirAsia found Workday Human Capital Management could provide a single, global cloud solution that scales for growth and an increasing diversity of business extensions to its core travel business. Regular Workday updates were attractive, too.

Another factor in AirAsia’s selection of Workday was the alignment of both companies’ cultures. “AirAsia decided to partner with Workday because both companies are disruptors in their industries. In a way, there are synergies and similarities between both these companies,” says Ananda Ramachandran, AirAsia Head of People Technology.

AirAsia deployed Workday Human Capital Management across 23 nations to nearly its entire organization of more than 20,000 All Stars on time and on budget. The immediate reaction of the company’s All Stars to Workday Human Capital Management was, and continues to be, extremely positive. Workday Human Capital Management also:

• Offers greater overall organizational visibility and transparency
• Gives highly mobile workers more agility, speed, efficiency
• Aligns with changing needs
• Easy to configure
• Provides scalability for growing international operations
• Simplifies processes and workflows with standardized employee data

From an organizational side, I felt that the culture of Workday, the management, and what I had seen of the way Workday works as a company were aligned with us from a values perspective.”

—Varun Bhatia, Chief People & Culture Officer, AirAsia

“ When we look back and see how the transformation has been within AirAsia after we have launched Workday, we see that our people engagement has increased. Its easy accessibility from just about anywhere has also put the power of data in the hands of our people.”

—Ananda Ramachandran, Head of People Technology, AirAsia
RESULTS

By deploying the global Workday Human Capital Management cloud platform, AirAsia gained the capabilities needed to accelerate its HR transformation journey. This transformation is core to enabling a bigger vision called AirAsia 3.0—the expansion of AirAsia into a travel-tech enterprise supporting many diverse businesses across its international operating footprint. Results included:

- More informed decisions lead to better decisions
- Mobile workforce stays connected, boosting efficiency and morale
- AirAsia is well poised for the future and better able to fulfill the AirAsia 3.0 vision

PROVIDING MANAGEMENT DECISION SUPPORT

With Workday Human Capital Management, AirAsia’s management and HR teams have gained much more organizational visibility and transparency, so they can make more informed decisions—and better ones as a result.

Organizational visibility and transparency have enabled management’s decision-making on people moves and interdepartmental issues to be much more informed by data instead of anecdote and, therefore, faster, easier, and more effective.”

—Varun Bhatia, Chief People & Culture Officer, AirAsia

This visibility and transparency are critical to management’s realization of its vision of AirAsia 3.0. Disconnected workflows and paper-based processes don’t scale to allow such ambitions. It eliminates manual handoffs which used to lead to errors in time, money, and, ultimately, customer dissatisfaction.

CONNECTING ALL STARS, AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY

With Workday Human Capital Management, employees can securely access their own information as well as relevant company information for which they have role-based privileges. Examples:

- Standardized data improves efficiency of workflows and processes
- Employees and managers save time, boosting productivity

With more than half of AirAsia’s 20,000-plus All Stars in mobile roles, they have access via different devices at any time and from wherever they have a network connection—even air crews flying at 40,000 feet. “With the mobility and agility of the Workday Human Capital Management cloud platform, everyone on the go across AirAsia can still contribute to our business processes,” says Manson Chan, ICT Product Manager, AirAsia.

READY FOR THE FUTURE

Already a disruptor in the airline industry, the company plans to extend its wings into many other travel-related businesses as part of its AirAsia 3.0 vision. At the same time, it must ensure its core airline enterprise remains both a value and a delightful experience for customers.

A scalable, global cloud platform, Workday Human Capital Management can grow as AirAsia grows. Upgrades, security, and maintenance are all taken care of. IT can focus on more strategic projects to drive more success. Plus, AirAsia is now connected to the Workday Community, a global user group, for additional support.

Workday provides updates twice a year, which is as good as a fresh implementation in terms of time, cost, and effort. This is one of the big things that made Workday stand out.”

—Ananda Ramachandran, Head of People Technology, AirAsia