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China Aviation Pilot Training Revolution

Based on the booming economics of China, there had been a growing need for the aviation transportation needs. Even with the recession, China still demonstrated a GDP growth of 8% and the aviation industry having an annual growth of 15-18%. However, the industry growth is not limited by its demand but by the supply. The industry is facing a severe shortage of trained personnel, especially pilots, thus causing restricting the industry growth.

Currently the market projection requires additional 500 pilots per year on top of the 2000 pilot that was trained every year. Due to the increased number of flight crew in airlines, simulator training also need to be increased Every 20 to 50 planes need outfit with 1 simulator, China will need to increase 8 to 10 simulators every year.

In 2007, in order to relieve pilot shortage and abolish the rigid system of pilot training, China Southern Airline signed a pilot training agreement with the Civilian Aviation Flight University of China and Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, in a bid to find a new way to foster pilots. According to the agreement, trainees would receive a 6-month theoretical session and 18-month flight session, and the Civilian Aviation Flight University of China would issue a pilot certificate to each of those trainees who passed relevant examinations. It is worth noting that each trainee would pay 700,000 yuan training expense. Now, the 50-year rigid system of pilot training is being replaced and the long-expected reform has taken shape.

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China's first pilots who pay for their own expensive training
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In the morning of October 15, 37 people trained by China Southern Airline received pilot certificates from Ma Jianxin, vice president of the Civil Aviation Flight University of China, indicating their qualification to fly an aircraft. This batch of pilots received flight training at their own expense. Previously the state and airlines were responsible for pilot training and each pilot was required to work for life at a designated airline. Now, the new system has put an end to this traditional practice, creating a far-reaching effect on China's civilian pilot training and management system.

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