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The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] and China Airlines celebrated the delivery of the airline's 20th Boeing 747-400 Freighter. Today's delivery of the new airplane continues China Airlines' leadership in the market with the world's largest 747-400 Freighter fleet.

The Taiwan-based national carrier operates 15 Boeing 747-400 passenger airplanes as well as 12 Boeing Next-Generation 737s.

Boeing projects growth of Asian air cargo markets will continue to lead the world with the domestic Chinese and intra-Asian markets expanding 10.8 percent and 8.6 percent per year, respectively. In Boeing's World Air Cargo Forecast 2006/2007, Boeing forecasts that world air cargo growth is expected to expand at an average annual rate of 6.1 percent during the next 20 years.

The Boeing 747 Freighter family is the standard of the air cargo industry, providing more than half of the world's freighter fleet capacity.

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