

Delhi Duty Free chief Philip Eckles to step down at end of year



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Philip Eckles, Chief Executive of Delhi Duty Free, a joint venture between Aer Rianta International (ARI), GMR Airports and Delhi International Airport, is to step down from his post at the end of the year. He has been in the position since August 2018.

ARI Chief Executive Ray Hernan commented: “We would like to thank Philip for his outstanding contribution in growing the Delhi Duty Free business over the past number of years. Philip has worked tirelessly with great vision, consistently delivering compelling results. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Philip over the remainder of his term and we wish him every success with his future endeavors.”

Eckles is a well-known and much-respected figure within the global travel retail environment. He had a long and distinguished career with ARI from 1993 to 2018, holding many senior positions, including: Regional Manager of ARI North America; CEO of ARI Middle East; and Global Implementation Director.

He will leave his current position as CEO of Delhi Duty Free after many years overseas to return to England, spend time with his family and pursue new opportunities.

Commenting on the announcement, Delhi Duty Free Chairman, Mr GBS Raju, said: “Philip brought great leadership to Delhi Duty Free which is reflected in the heightened success which the company

has experienced during his tenure. Philip's tremendous knowledge and experience of fundamental retailing principles has significantly enhanced our customer proposition and positions Delhi Duty Free well as we look to the future and emerge from this difficult COVID-19 period. We extend our very best wishes to Philip as he embarks on his next chapter."

Commenting on his planned departure, Eckles said: "Working with the team at Delhi Duty Free has been a great experience and together we have built one of the leading duty free operations in the region. Delivering an outstanding shopping experience for customers is core to our business and that is reflected in the record sales success which we have enjoyed over the last number of years."

He continued: "I joined this industry in 1989 and have had a fantastic 31 years with the opportunity to have worked with great characters throughout the world. I will take some wonderful memories home with me. I would like to thank the Chairman and Board of Directors at Delhi Duty Free for the opportunity to lead a world-class team here in Delhi, that I know will continue to go from strength to strength."

A replacement CEO for Delhi Duty Free will be named in due course, ARI said.