

REPORT

ON

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE  
WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL TRAVEL COMMISSION

FOR THE

PACIFIC AND EAST ASIA

Manila, Philippines

August 13-15, 1975

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I. INTRODUCTION

The RTCPEA held its first meeting in Manila, Philippines from 13 to 15 August 1975.

II. ATTENDANCE

The list of participants who attended the meeting appears as Annex I.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

The first meeting of Regional Travel Commission for the Pacific and East Asia started on 13 August 1975, with the Honorable Jose D. Aspiras, Secretary of the Philippines' Department of Tourism delivering the opening remarks.

Secretary Aspiras stated the purpose for which the conference was called, to wit: "to deliberate on how best the delegates may be able to transform the Regional Travel Commission for the Pacific and East Asia or the RTCPEA into a truly effective catalyzer for tourism development within the region."

The Secretary stressed the Philippines' commitment, in the light of the Conference's goals, to provide all the facilities, manpower and services necessary for the setting-up and maintenance of a viable regional travel commission.

In conclusion, Secretary Aspiras welcomed all the delegates to the country and wished them all a truly successful meeting. The full text of his statement appears as Annex II of this report.

#### IV. STATEMENTS OF CHIEF DELEGATES

The Heads of Delegations delivered their respective statements. All the Delegates expressed their appreciation to the Philippine Government, in particular the Department of Tourism, for hosting the first Conference of the Commission.

Brief summaries of their statements are as follows:

With this inaugural meeting of the WTO-RTCPEA, the Australian Delegate said that "we are not starting from nothing", the foundation having been laid by the IUOTO Regional Commission. But several tasks have yet to be done:

- a. To build up membership
- b. To bring together the various organizations involved in tourism within the region and integrate our activities in order to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts
- c. To direct attention to the problem of developing tourism within the Pacific and East Asian region.

The Malaysian and Indonesian Delegates assured Secretary Aspiras of their support for the Conference. The Singapore Representative expressed similar sentiments.

The Delegate of the Republic of Korea stated that in view of the recent developments in the region, there is an even stronger need to promote understanding, cooperation and tourism activities among Asians. The Korean Delegation expressed support for the Conference and wished it success.

Support for the goals and objectives of the Conference was also conveyed by the Thailand Representative.

The full texts of the statements are enclosed as Annex III.

#### V. ADDRESS OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

Mr. Nondon Gandjar of Indonesia addressed the body as Temporary Chairman of the Conference, representing Mr. Marcellinus Prajogo, Chairman of the Commission, and in his capacity as head delegate of Indonesia. Summarizing the accomplishments of the last World Tourism Organization Conference in Madrid in May 1975, Mr. Gandjar cited the "formulation of world programmed and special activities

for 1976-77 in research, operations, information and publication" as that Conference's most significant achievement.

The implementation of this programme, he emphasized, is a challenge to the Commission to further develop and improve the region for tourism.

In conclusion, Mr. Gandjar expressed belief that the decisions and conclusions reached at the meeting will definitely be the basis for the improvement of the Commission.

The full text of the address appears as Annex IV of this report.

**VI. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

After some discussion, the provisional agenda was adopted by the Commission with one amendment, i.e., to include in the consideration of item 14 the discussions on the need for a permanent regional Secretariat. The agenda appears as Annex V in this report.

**VII. ELECTION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ambassador Leandro I. Verceles of the Philippine Delegation was elected Chairman of the Drafting Committee, with all the chief delegates as members.

**VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Thailand was unanimously elected Chairman of the Commission. Australia and the Republic of Korea were elected as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission.

**IX. TURNOVER OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMISSION BY THE DELEGATION OF INDONESIA, TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE RTOPEA**

The Temporary Chairman delivered a report, the text of which is enclosed as Annex VI.

**X. CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The body unanimously decided to confine membership to countries belonging to the East Asia and Pacific Region.

It was further resolved that:

1. The Chairman should call upon non-member countries within the Pacific and East Asia region ~~to become members of the WTO, and subsequently the RTCPEA; and that member countries of the WTO not represented in this first regional conference be invited to take active part in the RTCPEA.~~  
to become members of the WTO, and subsequently the RTCPEA; and that member countries of the WTO not represented in this first regional conference be invited to take active part in the RTCPEA.
2. International non-governmental organizations (e.g. IATA) be encouraged to join the RTCPEA as affiliate members, the initiative to be taken by the member countries concerned.

#### LOCATION OF REGIONAL COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS

The meeting considered the proposals of the Philippines and Thailand to be the site of the Commission Headquarters. The Commission decided by secret ballot that the Philippines, which obtained the required two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be the site of the Headquarters of the RTCPEA. The Philippine proposal appears as Annex VII of this report.

#### I. NOMINATION OF REGIONAL SECRETARY

The Commission decided that the Regional Secretary should be nominated by the Philippine Government, in view of the choice of the Philippines as the site of the Regional Headquarters.

#### II. PROGRAMMES AND PROFFSTS

It was agreed that the Regional Secretary be requested to prepare papers for the next meeting of the Regional Commission covering such matters as rules of procedures of the Regional Commission, work programmes and budgets, membership, relationship with other international organizations in the region concerned with tourism, and other related matters.

#### IV. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

It was agreed that the second meeting of the Regional Commission be held in Manila before the next regular meeting of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization, at a date to be determined by the Chairman.

XV. OTHER MATTERS

- a) The Commission noted with appreciation the message of Mr. Robert Lonati, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization wishing the Commission every success in the deliberations of the meeting.
- b) The Commission expressed its deep appreciation and commendation to Minister Marcellino J. Fragoso for demonstrating **exemplary leadership** and statesmanship as Temporary Chairman of the Commission. His performance paved the way for **the harmonious, friendly and fruitful first conference** of the Commission in Manila.
- c) The Commission commended the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen **for their leadership, tact, and guidance that brought about the successful conclusion of the meeting.**
- d) The Commission expressed its gratitude and appreciation for **the gracious hospitality and excellent arrangement of the Philippine Government in connection with the hosting of the meeting.**