

Report of the Third Meeting  
of the World Tourism Organization  
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Manila, Philippines  
September 1-2, 1977

I. INTRODUCTION

The World Tourism Organization-Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its third meeting in Manila, Philippines, on September 1-2, 1977.

II. ATTENDANCE

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

III. OPENING CEREMONY

The Third Meeting of the World Tourism Organization Commission for Asia and the Pacific was formally declared open by the Chairman, Col. Somchai Hiranyakit of Thailand. The Honorable Jose D. Aspiras, Secretary of the Philippine Department of Tourism, delivered the welcome address. The full text of his statement appears as Annex II.

This was followed by the short remarks of the delegation of Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Thailand and the Philippines. The summaries of those remarks appear as Annexes III-a, III-b, III-c, III-d, and III-e.

The Chairman delivered a brief statement, the full text of which appears as Annex IV.

IV. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

Thailand was unanimously re-elected for a second two-year term, namely for 1978-1979. Malaysia and the Republic of Korea were elected as Vice-Chairmen.

V. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Indonesia proposed the inclusion of an additional topic under Item 5(a) relating to the coordination of projects with those of other tourism organizations in the region. With the inclusion of this amendment, the provisional agenda of the meeting was adopted by the Commission.

VI. ELECTION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Indonesia was unanimously chosen Chairman of the Credentials Committee, with the Philippines as Vice-Chairman.

VII. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SECRETARY

The Regional Secretary, Ambassador Leandro I. Verceles, made his report to the Commission. He offered his report submitted to the WTO Second General Assembly at Torremolinos, Malaga, Spain, on May 23-June 3, 1977, as his report to the Commission.

In addition, he informed the Commission that Lao People's Democratic Republic and Singapore sent regrets that they are not sending any delegate to the meeting and that no reply was received from the Democratic Republic of Kampuchea and People's Republic of Vietnam. He emphasized the need for a Liaison Officer of each Member with the Regional Secretariat. The full text of the Regional Secretary's written report appear as Annex V.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF CAP'S PARTICIPATION IN THE APPROVED PROGRAM OF WORK OF WTO IN THE REGION

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1 The Commission, after some discussion, decided to entrust the Regional Secretary with the task of consulting the other tourism organizations in the region with the view to achieve cooperation and coordination on matters affecting tourism. The Commission also decided to hold a regional seminar as suggested in the WTO approved Program of Work for 1978-1979. The topic of the seminar is "Development of Intra-regional Tourism".

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The Commission also considered the various mid-term options proposed by WTO for determining priorities of its General Program of Work for 1978-1987. The options taken into consideration for research and study are listed in the document accompanying item 5-a(1). These are: (1) Operational activities and research, WTO's prime service to tourism; (2) Development of domestic tourism; (3) New structure of international tourism and growth of domestic tourism in developed and developing countries and thresholds of territorial saturation; (4) Tourism, an export commodity or not?; (5) Critical examination and new models of land use, protection of reserves for future use; (6) Tourism as a community service; (7) Profound changes information of tourism as a product; (8) Marketing innovations that may arise from changes in tourism's terms of trade; (9) Adapting vocational courses to new forms of supply and demand.

The Commission requested the Regional Secretary to conduct a further study and gather materials on these options in preparation for taking a position thereon by the Commission in the third General Assembly in 1979 and the World Tourism Conference in 1980. The Regional Secretary was likewise requested to determine the date of the seminar and to make a budgetary estimate of the expenses.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTERS CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP FOR THE REGION

The Commission, after some deliberation, decided that a resolution be adopted inviting countries in Asia and the Pacific to join the WTO-CAP and entrusted the Regional Secretary to draft the resolution for transmittal to the countries to be invited. The Commission also requested individual members to exert their efforts to invite non-members especially their neighboring countries to join the WTO-CAP. The Commission decided to organize a special Mission composed of members, preferably the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, and the Regional Secretary to confer with non-member countries and invite them to join the World Tourism Organization Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission, expressing its concern over the case of Singapore which has signified its intention to withdraw from WTO effective November 1977, adopted a resolution appealing to Singapore to reconsider its decision in the context of ASEAN solidarity and cooperation.

X. CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER CONCERNING COORDINATION OF WORK OF CAP WITH OTHER TOURISM ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE REGION

5 After some discussion, the Commission decided to conduct a dialogue with the heads of tourism organizations in the region, holding for this purpose a meeting of CAP and the heads of such organizations in order to determine the scope of their various activities on tourism matters of interest to the region and to get a definite direction and correlation of those activities among themselves. The Commission requested the Regional Secretary to carry out this decision.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER CONCERNING REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE WORLD TOURISM CONFERENCE IN 1980

6 The Commission, realizing that the World Tourism Conference to be held in Manila in 1980 is not a responsibility of the Philippines alone as host, but also of the Commission, decided to organize a Preparatory Committee composed of its Members to assist in the organization and preparation for the Conference.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF CAP'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE VARIOUS ORGANS OF WTO

After hearing the reports of the CAP's representatives to the different organs of WTO, the Commission decided to take note, with appreciation, of the work done by said members in the respective WTO organs where they represent the interests of the CAP.

XIII. CONSIDERATION OF WTO'S POLICY ON REGIONALIZATION OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES AND ITS REGIONAL STRUCTURE.

7 The Commission, after some discussion, decided to request the Regional Secretary to formulate the position paper of the CAP on policy of regionalization of certain activities and its regional structure based on the position paper submitted by the Philippine delegation and to submit this report at the soonest possible time to the Chairman of the CAP who shall present same at the meeting of the Working Party on Regionalization in November 1977.

8 Likewise, the Commission decided to request the Regional Secretary to conduct a closer look and study of the structure and working procedures of the other Regional Commissions especially on how they achieve a greater measure of autonomy and for him to submit a report to the Commission."

XIV. CONSIDERATION OF CAP'S POSITION ON DRAFT CONVENTION ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF WTO IN TERRITORIES OF ITS MEMBER STATES

9 The Commission, aware of the legal implications of WTO's draft convention on privileges and immunities and in the territories of its member states and the fact that the convention is still a subject of study and further consideration by a Legal Working Party, decided to await the report of the Legal Working Party and requested the members

to consider seriously the conclusion of the agreements in the light of their respective government positions.

XV. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee reported that the Credentials of the delegates were found to be appropriate and in due form. This report was approved by the Commission.

XVI. OTHER MATTERS

- 10 (a) The Commission approved the recommendation of the Regional Secretary to hold a Regional Seminar and Joint Meeting with the Commission for South Asia and the WTO-CAP sometime in early 1978 to be hosted by Thailand.
- 11 (b) The Commission expressed its appreciation to Ambassador Leandro I. Verceles, outgoing Regional Secretary for his work in the establishment of the Regional Secretariat and in the performance of his duties.
- 12 (c) The Commission approved the designation of Mrs. Edda V. Henson, a nominee of the Philippine Government, as the next Regional Secretary, effective as of 1 January, 1978, which designation shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization.

XVII. PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13 The Commission decided to hold the next regular meeting in Manila, on a date to be announced later, which shall be prior to the date of the eighth session of the WTO Executive Council.