

CAP/35/DEC
February 2001

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE WTO COMMISSION
FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AT ITS THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING
Sakai, Japan, 25 October 2000

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Communication of the Chairman of the Commission
3. Presentation of the tourism market trends (statistical monograph) of the region for 1999
4. Summary of the recommendations and conclusions of two major WTO events in the region: *WTO Asia-Pacific Conference on Tourism Development for the Future: Preserving Natural and Cultural Heritage for the next Generation* which was held in Shirahama, Wakayama, Japan, from 03-05 February 2000; and, the *ESCAP/TAT/WTO Asia-Pacific Seminar on Public-Private Partnership for Tourism Development* which was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 20-22 March 2000
5. Place and date of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Commission

DECISIONS

CAP/DEC/1 (XXXV)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/35/Prov.Agenda)

The Commission,

Having considered the request made by the Ministry of Tourism of the Royal Government of Cambodia, to move provisional agenda item 5 "Information on the WTO/UNEP International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in the Islands of the Asia-Pacific Region, Sanya, Island of Hainan, China, 6-8 December 2000; and, the International Conference on Cultural Tourism, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 11-13 December 2000" to the agenda of the sixteenth joint meeting of the WTO Commission for South Asia and the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific,

Accepted his request and **adopted** the modified provisional agenda contained in document CAP/35/Prov.Agenda, submitted by the Secretary-General.

CAP/DEC/2 (XXXV)

COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

Agenda item 2

The Commission,

Having heard the communication of the Chairman,

1. **Thanked** her for her communication;
2. **Appreciated** her words of welcome and greetings extended to all the Members and other participants, and her warm words of thanks to the WTO and of Thailand's previous Chairmanship of the Commission;
3. **Noted** her comprehensive review of the results of the region's tourism industry particularly in the wake of the Asian financial crisis which indicate that it is on the way to recovery with the tourism industry demonstrating resiliency and the region's capacity to manage the crisis;
4. **Noted** her recommendation to the region to adopt measures which would diversify its tourism product, forge stronger public-private sector partnership, and develop the industry in a sustainable manner to prepare the region in facing the challenges of the 21st century;

5. **Joined** her in thanking the Secretariat for extending the Organization's technical assistance to the Members of the region for the further development and promotion of its tourism industry.
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CAP/DEC/3 (XXXV)

**PRESENTATION OF THE TOURISM MARKET TRENDS (STATISTICAL MONOGRAPH)
OF THE REGION FOR 1999**

Agenda item 3

The Commission,

Having listened to the detailed presentation of the statistical monograph for East Asia and the Pacific,

1. **Appreciated** the submission of the statistical monograph which is of immense value to the national tourism administrations in the region in their planning and marketing activities;
 2. **Noted with encouragement**, that after two years of negative results, the East Asia-Pacific region was once again the star of world tourism in 1999, reaching a growth rate of 11.5 per cent which led to a new record total of 97.5 million international tourist arrivals to the region;
 3. **Further noted** that the results were due to general economic recovery, effective marketing campaigns, improvement in accessibility, liberalization of frontier formalities, improved facilities and quality services, diversification of products and stronger public-private partnership;
 4. **Registered** the challenges of the future, namely sustainability, quality human resources, balance in new technology usage throughout the region, further improvement in civil aviation, and personal safety; and,
 5. **Requested** the Secretariat to include more analytical information in future monographs particularly on a region and country-wise basis.
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CAP/DEC/4 (XXXV)

SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF TWO MAJOR WTO EVENTS IN THE REGION: *WTO ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUTURE: PRESERVING NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION* WHICH WAS HELD IN SHIRAHAMA, WAKAYAMA, JAPAN, FROM 03-05 FEBRUARY 2000; AND, THE *ESCAP/TAT/WTO ASIA-PACIFIC SEMINAR ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT* WHICH WAS HELD IN BANGKOK, THAILAND FROM 20-22 MARCH 2000

Agenda item 4

The Commission,

Having considered the working document submitted by the Secretariat;

1. **Thanked** the Secretariat for organizing seminars and conferences in the region on subjects of contemporary interest and concern; and
2. **Requested** the Secretariat to host more seminars and conferences on similar topics on a regional and national basis for the benefit of the members of the region.

CAP/DEC/5 (XXXV)

PLACE AND DATE OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Agenda item 5

The Commission,

Accepted with gratitude the offer of the Government of Bangladesh to host the thirty-sixth meeting of the Commission in its territory during the first half of 2001.
