

CAP/40/DEC  
Original: English

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE WTO COMMISSION  
FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AT ITS FORTIETH MEETING

Beijing, China, 18 October 2003

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Agenda .....	2
2. Decisions taken by the Commission .....	3

## AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Regional activities
3. Nomination of the candidates for the various General Assembly offices:
  - **one** Member of the Credentials Committee
  - **one** Officer of the Assembly Committee of the Whole
4. Nomination of two members to the Executive Council
5. Nomination of candidates to the subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council:
  - **one** Member and **one** Alternate to the Programme Committee
  - **one** candidate to the Committee of Budget and Finance (CBF)
  - **one** candidate to the Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee (SDTC)
  - **one** candidate to the Quality Support and Trade Committee
  - **one** candidate to the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism
  - **one** member of the Sub-Committee for the review of application for affiliate membership
6. Election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission
7. Other items
8. Place and date of the forty-first meeting of the Commission

## PREAMBLE

1. The fortieth meeting of the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific was held in Beijing, China on 18 October 2003 within the framework of the fifteenth session of the WTO General Assembly which was hosted by the Government of China.
  2. The meeting was chaired by the **Philippines** and upon calling the meeting to order, the Chairman thanked the Government of the People's Republic of China for the excellent arrangements and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants and guests and welcomed the delegates present at the Meeting.
- 

## DECISIONS

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/40/Prov.Ag.)

3. After reviewing the provisional agenda and upon the proposal of the Secretariat, the Commission agreed to add a new agenda item (7) entitled "Other items".
  4. The provisional agenda was **adopted** with these modifications and the final agenda of the meeting is located on page 2.
- 

### REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agenda item 2 (document CAP/40/2)

5. The WTO Deputy Secretary-General informed the Commission that, despite the SARS epidemic and its impact on the tourism industry in Asia, tourism's performance was much better than anyone had expected, and this fact permitted WTO to look to the future with hope and optimism. He also mentioned the WTO's transformation into a specialized UN agency opened a new era in the history of world tourism. Furthermore, the interest towards tourism development and the overall understanding of its economic and social importance was being reconfirmed by the desire of many countries to join or re-join the WTO.
6. The WTO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific presented to the Commission the report on the activities carried out and planned in the region since the last meeting of the Commission held in Manila, Philippines in June 2003. According to this document, five technical assistance projects for **China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Philippines** and **Vietnam** were completed or were ongoing; three technical assistance missions in **China, Indonesia** and **Macao SAR** were carried out in the region, and three technical assistance missions for **China, Indonesia** and **Timor-Leste** were to be carried out in the future. The WTO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific also reported to the Commission on the regional activities, including various meetings and visits, organized since

the last meeting of the Commission, and informed about three technical meetings in China, Malaysia and Japan, to be held in the nearest future. He also informed the Commission that in 2002, the Asia-Pacific region overtook the Americas to become the second most visited region of the world after Europe. Without the SARS outbreak, this trend would have continued to grow. However, he added that there was ground for optimism, taking into consideration that many countries had recorded high positive growth in terms of tourist arrivals in the first eight months of 2003.

7. Having heard this information, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General and to the Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific for their efforts in implementing the general programme of work of the Organization in the region through a diverse range of sectoral support missions and long-term projects.

-----

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO  
STATUTORY ORGANS AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY ORGANS**

Agenda items 3 to 6 (documents A/15/Com.Reg and A/15/Com.Reg. Add.1)

8. After reviewing the working documents submitted by the Secretary-General on the nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies and after being apprised of the members' expression of interest to various organs, the Commission decided as follows:

***NOMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE VARIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES***

9. The Commission decided to nominate the following Members as its candidates to the offices of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly:

- Member of the Credentials Committee: **Fiji**
- Officer of the Assembly Committee of the whole: **Indonesia**

***NOMINATION OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL***

10. The Commission decided to nominate the following Members as its candidates to the subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council:

- Members to the Executive Council: **Republic of Korea**  
**Indonesia**

11. The Commission also made a strong recommendation to the General Assembly to accord the **Philippines** a floating seat on the Executive Council.

***NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL***

- Member to the Programme Committee (CTPC): Thailand (Mr. Pradech Phayakvichien)  
Alternate to the Programme Committee (CTPC): Indonesia (Mr. Thamrin Bachri)
- Candidate to the Committee on Budget and Finance: Thailand
- Candidate to the Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee: Thailand
- Candidate to the Quality Support and Trade Committee: Philippines
- Candidate to the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism: Philippines
- Member of the Sub-Committee for the Review of application of Affiliate Membership: China

***ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMISSION***

12. At this meeting of the Commission, the **Philippines** competed its four-year term of office as its Chairman and took the opportunity to thank the Commission for the strong support of its membership. In his turn, the Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific thanked the **Philippines** for its excellent leadership and dynamic representation of the East Asia and the Pacific region as its Chairman of the Commission in WTO affairs. The Commission then decided to elect **Cambodia** as Chairman of the Commission, with **Vietnam** and the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** as Vice-Chairmen for a term of office of two years commencing from the fifteenth session of the General Assembly.

---

**OTHER ITEMS**

Agenda item 7

13. Under this item of the agenda, the Commission, among other issues, discussed candidacies for hosting World Tourism Day in 2004 and recalled that at the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Council (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 24 September 2001), it was decided that the host country of World Tourism Day should be chosen by turn among the members of the six Regional Commissions, in such a way as to ensure a fair geographic rotation, beginning by the Member States belonging to regions that have not yet hosted the official celebration of this annual event. At its seventieth session the Executive Council decided (DEC/14(LXX)) that the Regional Commission for **East Asia and the Pacific** should designate the host country for **2004** from amongst its members. In this regard, **Malaysia** presented its candidacy as a host country for World Tourism Day celebration in 2004, and

received a unanimous support from all the Members of the Commission. **Malaysia** took the opportunity to thank the Commission for its strong support and promised to organize a memorable celebration of World Tourism Day in 2004.

14. The Commission also noted that **Macao SAR** had been elected as a candidate for judging the Poster Competition regularly held within the framework of WTO General Assemblies.

15. The Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific informed the Commission about three technical meetings, to be held in the near future: Regional Seminar on Tourism Partnership in Destination Development and Management (Guilin, China, 2-4 December 2003); Asia-Pacific Conference on Sustainability Certification of Tourism Activities (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 11-13 December 2003); and, Technical Seminar on Tourism Resource Management of Regional Culture (Ishikawa, Japan, 25-27 February 2004).

---

**PLACE AND DATE OF THE**  
**FORTY FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**  
Agenda item 8

16. The Commission gratefully accepted **Cambodia's** offer to host the forty first meeting of the Commission in Siem Reap in the first part of 2004 (the exact dates will be determined later). The Commission also acknowledged the interest of **Macao SAR** and **Japan** to host the forty second meeting of the Commission.

---