

CAP/39/DEC  
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DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE WTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
AT ITS THIRTY-NINTH MEETING

Manila, Philippines, 19 June 2003

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WTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Thirty-ninth Meeting

Manila, Philippines

19 June 2003

*AGENDA*

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Update on the preparations of the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the WTO General Assembly in Beijing
3. Presentation of the tourism market trends (statistical monograph) of the region for 2002
4. Regional activities
5. Update on the Constitution of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics
6. Place and date of the fortieth meeting of the Commission

## PREAMBLE

1. The 39<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific was held in Manila, Philippines on 19 June 2003, at the gracious invitation of the Government of the Philippines. The meeting was held within the framework of the WTO Tourism Week which was held in Manila from 16-20 June 2003.
  2. The meeting was chaired by **Philippines** who called the meeting to order.
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## DECISIONS

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/39/revised Prov.Ag.)

3. After reviewing the revised provisional agenda, and taking into account that the Chairman had already delivered his Communication at the 18<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the WTO Commission for South Asia which had been held earlier that morning, it was decided to delete the Communication of the Chairman from the provisional agenda.
  4. The Commission unanimously approved this proposal and the provisional agenda was **adopted** with this modification. The final agenda of the meeting is located on page 2.
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### UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BEIJING

Agenda item 2 (document CAP/39/8)

5. The Secretary-General informed the Commission on the preparations being made for the General Assembly which was scheduled to be held in Beijing in October 2003. He explained that both WTO and its members were concerned about the SARS situation and that the WTO Executive Council, at its 70<sup>th</sup> session held in Madrid, had taken a decision to decide on the holding of the Assembly in Beijing as scheduled by mid-July 2003 wherein it was hoped that the situation would be clearer. He reflected that the fact that Hong Kong has been declared SARS free allowed WTO to be optimistic fact that the situation in China would soon be under control too.
  6. The representative from **China** took the floor and assured the members that the Government of China was making every effort to control the SARS epidemic. He expressed his hope that China would be declared SARS-free shortly and reiterated the Government of the People's Republic of China to host the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the WTO General Assembly in Beijing in October 2003.
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**PRESENTATION OF THE TOURISM MARKET TRENDS  
(STATISTICAL MONOGRAPH) OF THE REGION FOR 2002**

Agenda item 3 (document CAP/39/3)

7. The WTO Regional Representative for Asia presented a document which highlighted the main tourism trends for 2002 both on a global and a regional basis. The salient facts were that after a negative growth of 0.6 per cent in international tourism in 2001, the global tourism industry recovered in 2002 with a 3.1 per cent growth, surpassing for the first time the 700 million international arrival mark to reach 715 million international tourist arrivals. The Asia-Pacific region continued to be the star of global tourism and, for the first time, surpassed the Americas to become the second-most visited region of the world with 131 million international arrivals.

8. The representative from the **Philippines** expressed his concern that intra-regional travel, the mainstay of the region's tourism industry would fall drastically due to SARS and wondered what efforts could be made to urge travel within the region. The Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific mentioned that aside from SARS, the aviation industry and the current flight connections do not promote intra-regional travel. Philippines then urged more open sky policies but the representative from **Cambodia** stated that, rather than open skies, the main problem for lack of travel within the region was due to travel advisories. Philippines then recommended that travel advisories be location specific and that the emissary country should give the location guidelines on what measures it should adopt in order for the advisory to be lifted. Cambodia also his expressed his concern that travel advisories in the case of SARS had also been issued by an international organization such as the World Health Organization.

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**REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Agenda item 4 (document CAP/39/4)

9. In this document which summarised the various activities carried out by the Secretariat within the region, the Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific highlighted the 6 technical assistance projects in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam and the 6 sectoral support missions in Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, and Thailand, as well as the seminars organized in Malaysia and Cambodia.

10. The Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific reiterated that WTO is always prepared to offer its technical assistance, to the best of its ability, to its members in the further development and promotion of their tourism industries.

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**UPDATE ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS**

Agenda item 5 (document CAP/39/7)

11. The members were reminded that in accordance with Part I of the Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, adopted by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session, the Commission was requested to approve the nomination of an Alternate to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics. It was also recalled that at its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting in Nara, Japan, in

October 2002, the Commission had already nominated Mr. Emil Salim of Indonesia as the Principal Candidate to the Committee.

12. The Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific informed the Commission that WTO had received two nominations from the Government of Fiji which were both incomplete.

13. The representative from the **Philippines** nominated **Mrs. Evelyn Pantig**, Undersecretary, Philippine Department of Tourism. The nomination was unanimously approved by the Commission.

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**PLACE AND DATE OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONS**

Agenda item 6

14. It was recalled that the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission would be held in Beijing, China within the framework of the WTO General Assembly.

15. It was also mentioned that Cambodia had expressed its desire to host the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Commission within its territory in 2004 – a decision which was unanimously approved by the Commission at its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Nara, Japan in October 2002.

16. The Government of Macao SAR had also expressed an interest to host a meeting of the Commission in its territory in 2004

17. The Chairman closed the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission expressing, on behalf of the all the Members, his sincere **thanks and appreciation to the staff of the Philippines' Department of Tourism** as well as to the WTO for the successful organization of the Philippine Tourism Week.

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