

CSA/50/DEC
Original: English

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION
FOR SOUTH ASIA AT ITS FIFTIETH MEETING**

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 26th November 2007

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Agenda	2
2. Decisions taken by the Commission	3
3. List of participants	7

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Nomination of candidates to the various General Assembly offices:
 - **One** Vice-President of the General Assembly
 - **One** Member of the Credentials Committee
3. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Commission
4. Nomination of candidates to represent the region on the subsidiary organs of the Executive Council:
 - **Two** candidates (one member and one alternate) to the Programme Committee (*designation by name*)
 - **One** candidate to the Committee on Budget and Finance
 - **One** candidate to the Committee on Sustainable Development of Tourism
 - **One** candidate to the Committee on Market and Competitiveness
 - **One** candidate to the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account
 - **One** candidate to the Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership
5. Nomination of **one** candidate for the jury of the poster competition
6. Presentation of a Special Report and Regional Activities
 - Regional Activities
 - Presentation by Mr. Yuichiro Honda, Chief of UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
 - Brief intervention by Mr. André Vallérard, Chairman, Centre of Excellence for Destinations (CED) on *System for Measuring Excellence for Destinations*.
7. Place and date of the fifty-second meeting of the commission

PREAMBLE

1. The fiftieth meeting of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 26 November 2006 within the framework of the 17th session of the UNWTO General Assembly, which was hosted by the Government of Colombia.

2. The meeting was chaired by **Pakistan** and upon calling the meeting to order, the Chairman gave an overview of the tourism situation in Pakistan. The Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Taleb Rifai then informed the Commission about the long-term global forecasts in tourism. Its annual average growth of 4.1, which was predicted in 1995 has been kept since then to date, and it is sure to be sustained at around the same figure till 2020. Asia and the Pacific as a whole, and certain countries in the region have been performing beyond expectations. The Commission also learnt that UNWTO is currently embarking on a study of long-term trends and forecasts for 2030.

DECISIONS**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Agenda item 1 (document CSA/50/Prov.Ag.)

3. After reviewing the provisional agenda, and in the absence of any modifications, the provisional agenda was **adopted** and the final agenda of the meeting is located on page 2.

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

Agenda items 2 to 4 (documents A/17/Com.Reg and A/16/Com.Reg. Add.1)

4. 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 CANDIDATES FOR THE VARIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES

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

- Vice-President of the Assembly: Iran
- Member of the Credentials Committee: Sri Lanka

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE REGION

6. **Pakistan** made reference to the fact that it had expressed its interest in continuing with the chairmanship of the Commission through a fax it sent to the Secretary-General and was reiterating

this interest verbally. **Iran** recalled that a decision was taken at the 41st meeting of the Commission held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in September 2001, where it was decided that the chairmanship of the Commission would be on rotational basis, using the alphabetic order of the countries as the basis for this rotation. According to that decision, given that the chairman of the Commission at the 16th General Assembly in Senegal was India, Iran was to be the chairman after India's term. However, since Iran was elected by the Commission to represent the Executive Council, a special decision was taken during the 47th Meeting in Dakar by the Commission to elect Pakistan as the Chairman of the Commission. It was further agreed, upon India's suggestion, that the rotational system of electing the Chairman for the Commission be continued at the next election time (i.e. this current 50th Meeting). Pakistan suggested that Iran consider sharing the two-year period of chairmanship. However, Iran insisted that the Commission go by the rotational rule. After some deliberations with the Secretariat, Pakistan withdrew its expression of interest in the spirit of cooperation. **Iran** was thus elected Chairman of the Commission; **Pakistan** and **Sri Lanka** were elected Vice-Chairmen. Both the Chairman and the Vice Chairmen will serve a two-year term commencing from the 17th Session of the General Assembly.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Member of the Programme Committee: India (Ms. Leena Nandan)
Alternate member of the Programme Committee: Sri Lanka (Mr. Seenivasagam Kalaiselvam)
- Member of the Committee on Budget and Finance: Iran
- Member of the Committee on Sustainable Development of Tourism: India
- Member of the Committee on Market and Competitiveness: Iran
- Member of the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account: India
- Member of the Sub-Committee for the Review of application of Affiliate Membership: Iran

NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE JURY OF THE POSTER COMPETITION

Agenda item 5

- Member of the Jury for the Poster Competition: Nepal

PRESENTATION OF A SPECIAL REPORT AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agenda item 6 (document CSA/50/6)

7. The **Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific** presented to the Commission the report on the activities carried out in the region from the 19th Joint Meeting of the two commissions for South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific, to the current commission meeting. Some of these

included the Third International Forum on Chinese Outbound Tourism, APEC/UNWTO Workshop on Crisis Management, the 4th International Conference on Tourism and Sports, Regional Workshop on Tourism Satellite Account for South Asian Countries, the World Tourism Conference – Tourism Success Stories and Shooting Stars, and UNWTO/PATA Tourism Trends and Research Conference.

8. The Regional Representative also briefed the Commission on some of the activities planned for the immediate future including the next commission meetings to be held along with the meeting of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific in Kobe, Japan in 2008, the Labour Market Study on Asia-Pacific region, the International Conference on Sustainable Tourism Management at Heritage Sites in Huangshan, China, in March 2008 and the UNWTO Executive Training Programme for Asia and the Pacific in the Maldives in May.

9. The Chief of **UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific Region** followed suit with activities the office had undertaken and had taken part in since the commission meetings in Pakistan. He mentioned the Tourism Promotion Symposium which took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the JATA World Tourism Congress, the 9th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention and the First International Symposium on Tourism and the Economy which was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan. The Regional Support Office was also instrumental in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and Japan's Ritsumeikan Asia-Pacific University.

10. As part of its immediate plans which is in line with UNWTO's ST-EP initiative, the Regional Support Office and its support organization – the Asia-Pacific Tourism Exchange Centre (APTEC) aim to further promote the ST-EP project through the increase of the number of Japanese tourists to developing countries through the organisation of events similar to the one in Mongolia. A meeting is thus planned jointly with UNESCAP in Assam, India in February 2008.

11. This agenda item concluded with a brief intervention of the President of the *World Centre of Excellence for Destinations* (CED) on a System for Measuring the Excellence in Destinations (SMED). The goal of the SMED is to encourage destinations to become recognized as destinations of excellence by using an evaluation system based on reliable criteria approved by experts. UNWTO has demonstrated its commitment to quality and excellence in tourism by establishing this *World Centre of Excellence for Destinations* in Montreal, Canada. The mission of the Centre is to help tourist destinations worldwide reach excellence by increasing their competitiveness; contributing to sustainable development goals; improving service quality; and enhancing the geographical character of a place.

**PLACE AND DATE OF THE
FIFTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

Agenda item 7

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the 52nd Meeting of the Commission for South Asia, the 48th Meeting of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the 21st Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia and the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific in 2009. (The exact dates will be determined later). The 51st Meeting of the Commission for South Asia, the 47th Meeting of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the 20th Joint Meeting of

the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia will be held in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, in Japan from 9-11 June 2008. The International Conference on Metropolitan Tourism will also be organised within the framework of the Commission meetings. This is the third conference on the subject of metropolitan tourism. The first two were held in Shanghai and Busan (Republic of Korea) in 2006 and 2007 respectively. The place and date of the 53rd Meeting of the Commission for South Asia will be decided during the 51st Meeting in Japan.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**INDIA**

Mr. Ravi Dammu
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Tourism
Transport Bhawan, 1 Sansad Marg
Parliament Street
110001 NEW DELHI
Tel: (91-11) 2335 4088
Fax: (91-11) 2373 1506
E-mail: ps-mtc@nic.in

Mr. Snarlyne Khyriem
Regional Director
Ministry of Tourism
1270, Av of the Americas Suite1808, 18
NY 10020 New York
Tel: (1-212) 586 4901
Fax: (1-212) 582 3274
Email: khyriem@hotmail.com

Mr. Narendra Kothiyal
Information Officer
Ministry of Tourism
1270, Av of the Americas Suite1808, 18
NY 10020 New York
Tel: (1-212) 586 4901
Fax: (1-212) 582 3274
Email: ny@itonyc.com

Mr. Ankan Banerjee
Second Secretary
Embassy of India in Colombia
Cra. 7-71-21, Torre B – Of. 1001
Bogotá
Tel: (57) 317 48 76/87
Fax: (57) 326 1726
Email: indembog@cablenet.co

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Mr. Mohamad Ali Pakseresht
Director General
Bureau of Planning and Foreign Tourism
Development
Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicraft & Tourism
Organization (ICHHTO)
No.238, Sindokht Crossroad,
West Fatemi Ave.,
Tehran 13185-1613
Tel: (98-21) 6643 5683
Fax: (98-21) 6693 11 53

Mr. Firouzeh Khoshnoudi Parast
Expert for UNWTO Affairs
International Affairs and Specialised
Organizations Bureau
Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicraft & Tourism
Organization (ICHHTO)
238 Sindokht Crossroad – West Fatemi
Avenue, Tehran 13185-1613
Tel: (98-21) 6643 5663
Fax: (98-21) 6693 1158
Email: fkhoshnoudi@yahoo.com

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Mr. Abdul Hameed Zakariyya
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
Ghaazee Building, Ameeru Ahmed Magu
Male 20-05
Tel: (960) 332 3224
Fax: (960) 332 2512
Email: hameed@maldivestourism.gov.mv

Mr. Mohamed Farshath
Assistant Director
Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
Ghaazee Building, Ameeru Ahmed Magu
Male 20-05
Tel: (960) 332 3224
Fax: (960) 332 2512
Email: farshath@maldivestourism.gov.mv

NEPAL

Mr. Hikmat Singh Ayer
Director
Nepal Tourism Board
Bhrikuti Mandup
KATHMANDU
Tel: (977-1) 425 69 09
Fax: (977-1) 425 69 10

PAKISTAN

Mr. Zafarullah Siddiqui
Economic Analyst
Ministry of Tourism
Government of Pakistan
Green Trust Towers, 12th Floor,
44000 Islamabad
Tel: (92-51) 921 3642
Fax: (92-51) 921 59 12

Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Awan
Section Officer
Ministry of Tourism
Government of Pakistan
Green Trust Towers, 12th Floor,
44000 Islamabad
Tel: (92-51) 921 3642
Fax: (92-51) 921 59 12

SRI LANKA

Mr. Seenivasagam Kalaiselvam
Director General
Tourism Development Authority
80 Galle Road
Colombo 3
Tel: (94-11) 2437 061
Fax: (9411) 2437953
E-mail: dg@srilankatourism.org

Mr. Malraj B. Kiriella
Director Marketing
Tourism Development Authority
80 Galle Road
Colombo 3
Tel (94 11) 254 4534
Fax : (94-11) 244 00 01
Email: malrajbk@srilanka.travel

UNWTO SECRETARIAT

Dr. Taleb Rifai
Deputy Secretary-General
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya 42
28020 Madrid
Tel: (34-91) 5678 162
Fax: (34-91) 571 37 33

Mr. Xu Jing
Regional Representative for Asia and the
Pacific
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya 42
28020 Madrid
Tel: (34-91) 5678 177
Fax: (34-91) 571 37 33
Email: jxu@world-tourism.org

Ms. Christine Brew
Assistant, Regional Representation for Asia
and the Pacific
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya 42
28020 Madrid
Tel: (34-91) 5678 177
Fax: (34-91) 571 37 33
Email: cbrew@unwto.org

UNWTO REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

Mr. Yuichiro Honda
Chief - WTO Regional Support Office
for Asia and the Pacific
Rinku Gate Tower Building
Rinku-Orai Kita 1, Izumi-Sano,
Osaka 598-0048
Tel: (81-724) 601 200
Fax: (81-724) 601 204
E-mail: info@wto-osaka.org

Mr. Shuji Takahara
Deputy Chief
UNWTO Regional Support Office
for Asia and the Pacific
24F Rinku Gate Tower Building
1 Rinku-Orai Kita, Izumisano,
Osaka 598-0048, Japan
Tel: (81-724) 601 200
Fax: (81-724) 601 204
E-mail: takahara@aptec.or.jp

Mr. Kazuo Ichikawa
Director of International Affairs
24F Rinku Gate Tower Building
1 Rinku-Orai Kita Izumisano,
Osaka 598-0048, Japan
Tel: (81-72) 460 1200
Fax: (81-72) 460 1204
Email: ichikawa@aptec.or.jp