

CSA/52/DEC
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DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION
FOR SOUTH ASIA AT ITS FIFTY-SECOND MEETING

Astana, Kazakhstan, 3rd October 2009

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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 Executive Council and its subsidiary organs:
 - **One** candidate to the Executive Council
 - **Two** candidates (one member and one alternate) to the Programme Committee (*designation by name*)
 - **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 on Regional Activities
 - a) Regional Activities
 - b) Presentation on activities of UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
7. Status report on:
 - a. Study on how Africa can attract tourists from Asian source markets to boost its tourism industry
 - b. Publication on Tourism Labour Market Study in Asia-Pacific region
 - c. UNWTO Study on Religious Tourism in Asia and the Pacific
 - d. Asia's response to the economic crisis and its effect on the tourism industry of the region
 - e. Fifth UNWTO International Conference on Tourism Statistics: Tourism: an Engine for Employment Creation
 - f. Managing Metropolitan Tourism: an Asian Perspective
8. Other matters
9. Place and date of the Fifty-third meeting of the commission

PREAMBLE

1. The fifty-second meeting of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 3 October 2009, within the framework of the 18th session of the UNWTO General Assembly which was hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan.

2. The meeting was chaired by the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and upon calling the meeting to order, the Secretary-General *a.i.* gave a brief overview of the current international tourism situation. International tourist arrivals fell to 7% from January to July owing to the rapid deterioration of the world economy and the increased threat of the influenza A (H1N1) outbreak. However, in spite of the climate of economic uncertainty, there are some signs indicating that the worst is almost over.

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/18/Com.Reg)

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 in 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 eighteenth 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

- Chairman of the Commission: **Iran**
- Vice-Chairmen of the Commission: **Bangladesh and Bhutan**

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Members of the Executive Council: India (main seat); Iran (floating seat)
- Member of the Programme Committee: Iran (Ms. Firouzeh Khoshnoudiparast)
Alternate member of the Programme Committee: Sri Lanka (Mr. Malraj Kiriella)
- 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: Sri Lanka

6. The **Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific** presented to the Commission a report on the activities carried out in the region from the 21st Joint Meeting of the two commissions to the current commission meeting. Some of these included the UNWTO Conference on Increasing Tourist Flows between Asia and the Middle East; the Fifth UNWTO International Conference on Tourism Statistics – Tourism: An Engine for Employment Creation; a Field study on restructuring tourism industry in the face of economic downturn; the third UNWTO Executive Training Programme in Asia; the 5th International Conference on Destination Management; and the Launching of a Serial Report on Best Practices of Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia.

7. The Regional Representative also briefed the Commission about some of the activities planned for the immediate future. These include the 3rd UNWTO/PATA Conference on Tourism Trends and Outlook for Asia and the Pacific (Guilin, China, 15–17 November 2009); a National Workshop on Marketing Strategy for Bhutan (November 2009); a Study on Chinese Outbound Travel to Africa (November 2009); and a UNWTO Capacity Building Programme on Tourism Statistics (CBP) in Asia, starting from 2010.

8. After the Regional Representative's briefing, Countries expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance and support to them through the organisation of meetings, workshops, seminars and technical assistance missions on contemporary tourism issues.

9. This was followed by the presentation by the Deputy Chief of **UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific**. He informed the Commission about activities the office has undertaken and has taken part in since the 21st Joint Commission Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia in Iran last March. These include the Second International Symposium on Tourism and the Economy: Tourism Satellite Account for Regional Tourism Strategy; UNWTO Education Seminar on Tourism Development in Mekong River Basin Countries; and the International Tourism Resilience Symposium. With respect to planned activities for the immediate future the Regional Support Office will organise International Symposium on Economic Effectiveness and Promotion through the Tourism Exchange between Regional Economies (4 November, Fukuoka); International Seminar on

Youth Tourism Exchange (January 2010); and UNWTO-Japanese Symposium on Encouraging Tourism Exchange in India (February 2010).

STATUS REPORT ON ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS

Agenda item 7 (CAP/48/7)

10. The Regional Representative briefed the commission about the status of a series of Asia-Pacific-related studies and publications which the Organization has been working on. These include a Study on how Africa can attract tourists from Asian source markets to boost its tourism industry; a publication on Tourism Labour Market Study in Asia-Pacific region; a UNWTO Study on Religious Tourism in Asia and the Pacific; Asia's response to the economic crisis and its effect on the tourism industry of the region; a report on the Fifth UNWTO International Conference on Tourism Statistics: Tourism: an Engine for Employment Creation; and Managing Metropolitan Tourism: an Asian Perspective.

OTHER MATTERS

Agenda item 8

11. The Secretariat informed the commission that for purposes of restructuring the constitution of ST-EP Foundation's Board of Governors, it was necessary to extend the current members' tenure for two more years. The governing board of this Foundation is composed of six representatives from the six regional commissions of UNWTO. **India** was nominated by the Commission to represent the region during the 47th meeting of the Commission which took place in Senegal within the framework of UNWTO's 16th General Assembly.

12. The restructuring process is also being carried out in other UNWTO subsidiary offices such as the UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (Osaka, Japan), UNWTO Themis Foundation (Andorra, Spain) and the World Centre of Excellence for Destinations (Montreal, Canada).

13. The Commission was also informed that the **Republic of Korea** was seeking its support for its candidature as host of the 19th session of UNWTO's General Assembly scheduled to be held in 2011. Members of the commission fully endorsed Korea's candidature.

14. The Commission proposed that there be a study on a number of topics. These include rural tourism; increasing intra-regional tourism; how South Asia can attract tourists from East Asia and the Pacific and benefit from India's outbound tourism.

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

Agenda item 7

15. During the 21st Joint Meeting of the two commissions which was held in Iran last March, a decision was taken to hold joint commission meetings annually in order to avoid overlapping and unnecessary repetition of agenda items. Separate commission meetings are not to be held when joint meetings take place, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise. Separate commission meetings

would be held during sessions of the General Assembly (every two years), to allow statutory elections to take place in their respective commissions.

16. The 53rd Meeting of the Commission will thus be held in the **Republic of Korea** where the 19th session of UNWTO's General Assembly will take place in 2011.

17. The Regional Representative reminded the Commission about the decision made by the Joint Commission during their 21st meeting in Iran to hold the 22nd Joint Meeting of the two commissions in **Vietnam** in 2010. The decision about the next country (in South Asia) to host the 23rd meeting of the two commissions shall be taken in Vietnam.

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