

CAP/48/DEC
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DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION
FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AT ITS FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Astana, Kazakhstan, 2 October 2009

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 Executive Council and its subsidiary organs:
 - **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
 - Regional Activities
 - 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
 - g. ASEAN Integration and its Impact on Tourism
8. Other matters:
9. Place and date of the Forty-ninth meeting of the commission

PREAMBLE

1. The forty-eighth meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 2 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 **Malaysia**¹ and upon calling the meeting to order, the Chairman welcomed all participants to the meeting.
 3. In his opening remarks, the Chairman expressed his sympathy to the Pacific islands and Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia which had been struck by the tsunami and the typhoon at the end of September and the beginning of October.
 4. The Secretary-General *a.i.* echoed the Chairman's expression of sympathy and 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.
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DECISIONS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/48/Prov.Ag.)

4. After reviewing the provisional agenda the Chairman asked if there were any requests for modifications to the agenda.
 5. The provisional agenda was **adopted** when no such requests were forthcoming and the final agenda of the meeting is located on page 2.
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NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO STATUTORY ORGANS AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Agenda items 2 to 4 (documents A/18/Com.Reg)

6. 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:

¹ Thailand, the out-going chairperson could not attend the meeting due to some official reasons; it thus proposed that Malaysia chaired the meeting in its stead.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VARIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES

7. The Commission decided to nominate the following Members as its candidates to the offices of the 18th session of the General Assembly:

- Vice-President of the Assembly: Timor-Leste
- Member of the Credentials Committee: Indonesia

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE REGION

8. The Regional Representative informed the Commission that Thailand was the only country that presented its candidature to the Secretariat to chair the Commission for the period 2009-2011. The Commission unanimously agreed to **Thailand's** re-election as Chairman of the Commission with **Japan** and **Malaysia** serving as Vice-Chairmen for a term of office of two years commencing from the 18th session of the General Assembly.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

- Member to the Programme Committee: Malaysia (Dr. Victor Wee)
Alternate member to the Programme Committee: Indonesia (Mr. Sapta Nirwandar)
- Member of the Sub-Committee for the Review of application of Affiliate Membership: China

NOMINATION OF ONE CANDIDATE FOR THE JURY OF THE POSTER COMPETITION

Agenda item 5

- Member of the Jury for the Poster Competition: Hong Kong

PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agenda item 6 (document CAP/48/6)

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

15. This was followed by the presentation of the Deputy Chief of **UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific** about activities the office has undertaken and has taken part in since the 21st Joint Commission Meeting of the two commissions in Iran last March. This includes 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)

16. 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; Managing Metropolitan Tourism: an Asian Perspective; and ASEAN Integration and its Impact on Tourism.

OTHER MATTERS

Agenda item 8

17. The Secretariat informed the commission that for purposes of restructuring the membership of the 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 and **Japan** was nominated by the

Commission to represent the region during the 43rd meeting of the Commission which took place in Senegal within the framework of UNWTO's 16th General Assembly.

18. 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 gave Korea their full support.

PLACE AND DATE OF THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Agenda item 7

19. 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.

20. The 49th 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.

21. **Vietnam** re-confirmed its readiness to hold the 22nd Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia in 2010.

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