

CAP/49/DEC
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**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION
FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AT ITS FORTY-NINTH MEETING**

Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 9 October 2011

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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 Assembly¹
 - **One** Member of the Credentials Committee
3. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Commission
4. Nomination of **one** candidate as alternate member of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics
5. Nomination of candidates to represent the region on the Executive Council and its subsidiary bodies:
 - **Three** candidates to the Executive Council
 - **Two** candidates to the Programme and Budget Committee²
 - **One** candidate to the Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee
 - **One** candidate to the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account
 - **One** candidate to the Committee on Market and Competitiveness
 - **One** candidate to the Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership
6. The jury of the poster competition³
7. Presentation on Regional Activities
 - Regional Activities
 - Presentation on Japan's recovery from the earthquake and tsunami of March 2011
8. Other matters:
9. Place and date of the Fiftieth meeting of the commission

¹ If the Assembly follows the tradition of nominating the head of delegation of the host country as President, there would be no post of Vice-President for the region of East Asia and the Pacific.

² One member to be designated by the Executive Council and one to be designated by the Commission once the constitution of the Programme and Budget Committee is approved by the 19th General Assembly. Designation is by name.

³ In order to select the winners of the 6 regional prizes, a jury will be established composed of the Chairs of the 6 Regional Commissions of the UNWTO, one representative of the host country (Republic of Korea), one representative of the UNWTO's Communications programme, and a prominent communications professional designated by the Organization. Each member of the jury shall vote for 3 posters from each region, except his or her own region in the case of representatives of the member countries.

PREAMBLE

1. The forty-ninth meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific was held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea on 9 October 2011, within the framework of the 19th session of the UNWTO General Assembly which was hosted by the Government of Korea.
 2. The meeting was chaired by **Thailand** and upon calling the meeting to order, the Chairman welcomed all participants to the meeting.
 3. In her opening remarks, the Chairperson underlined her satisfaction with how the international tourism has been holding up in spite of the on-going global financial and economic difficulties. She was particularly pleased with the Asia-Pacific region's outstanding performance and the leading role it is playing in the recovery process. She expressed her sympathy to the Japanese delegation for the massive earthquake and tsunami their country suffered in March 2011 and praised Japan for its fortitude and great capacity to overcome the catastrophe.
 4. The Secretary-General extended a warm welcome to the members of the Commission and echoed the sentiments expressed by the Chairperson about Japan. He informed them about his recent visit to the most affected area of the disaster (i.e. Sendai), the remarkable progress that has been made in reconstruction and general recovery, and encouraged the members to visit Japan because they are ready to receive tourists. He further informed them about a number of issues including: UNWTO and WTTC's Global Leaders for Tourism campaign to position tourism as a priority in the global agenda; and UNWTO's long-term forecast study *Tourism Towards 2030* which was the main theme of the General Debate for the General Assembly. The Commission was also apprised of other major themes of the Assembly such as the achievement of the millennium development goals through tourism – the subject of the discussions held at the Ministerial Roundtable.
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DECISIONS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/49/Prov.Ag.)

5. After reviewing the provisional agenda the Chairperson asked if there were any requests for modifications to the agenda.
 6. 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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NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VARIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES

Agenda items 2 to 5 (document A/19/Com.Reg)

7. 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:

8. The Commission decided to nominate the following Members as its candidates to the offices of the 19th session of the General Assembly:

- Vice-President of the Assembly⁴
- Member of the Credentials Committee: Laos

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE REGION

9. The Regional Director informed the Commission that Malaysia presented its candidature to the Secretariat to chair the Commission for the period 2011-2013. Several countries seconded Malaysia's candidature and the Commission unanimously agreed to **Malaysia's** election as Chairman of the Commission with **Timor-Leste** and **Cambodia** serving as Vice-Chairmen for a term of office of two years commencing from the 19th session of the General Assembly.

NOMINATION OF ONE CANDIDATE AS ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS (WCTE)

10. The Regional Director informed the Commission that a proposal for the reform of the WCTE was to be submitted to this session of the General Assembly. In the event that it is approved, no electoral commitments will be made after 2013 and this reform would enter into force from the twentieth session of the General Assembly. However, until then each regional commission is to be represented by one member and one alternate member on the Committee. Indonesia is currently the member and its term of office ends in 2013. As invitation to the Commission to nominate a candidate for alternate membership produced no results it was decided that the election be postponed till next year during the 24th Joint CAP-CSA meeting scheduled to be held in Thailand in May 2012.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & ITS SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

- **Executive Council:** The Chairperson informed the Commission that for the 3 seats to be filled on the Council, the Secretariat had received the candidatures of China, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea for re-election. The Commission supported the re-election request of the 3 countries, thus **China**, **Indonesia** and the **Republic of Korea** were recommended to the General Assembly to represent the region on the Executive Council for the next four years (i.e. up to 2015).

⁴ As the Assembly followed the tradition of nominating the head of delegation of the host country as President of the General Assembly, there was no post of Vice-President for the region of East Asia and the Pacific.

- Members of the Programme and Budget Committee⁵. The Regional Director briefed the Commission about the merging of the two committees (i.e. Programme Committee and Budget Committee) into one in accordance with a decision taken by the Executive Council at its 89th session in October 2010. The newly formed Programme and Budget Committee will be composed of two full members from each region in addition to the Representatives of the Associate Members and of the Affiliate Members on the Executive Council.
- Member of the Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee: The Chairperson informed the members of the Commission that **China** and the **Philippines** had communicated their candidacy to the Secretariat. For equitable distribution of positions, Philippines (the first country to do so) withdrew its candidature as it had also expressed interest in representing the Commission on the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account. **China** was thus elected.
- Member of the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account: The Commission elected the **Philippines** to represent it on the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account. The delegate from the Philippines reminded the Commission about the 3rd Workshop on Statistics Capacity-building scheduled to be held in Bangkok at the beginning of next year. The Secretariat then thanked **Australia** for its support of the two-year capacity-building programme through the provision of technical expertise (along with New Zealand).
- Member of the Committee on Market and Competitiveness: **Australia** was elected to represent the Commission on the Committee on Market and Competitiveness.
- Member of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership: **China** was elected to represent the Commission on the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership.

THE JURY OF THE POSTER COMPETITION

Agenda item 6

11. For the Poster Competition⁶, the Commission was informed that the Jury elected **Malaysia** as the winner of the Commission.

PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agenda item 6 (document CAP/49/6)

⁵ One member to be designated by the Executive Council and one to be designated by the Commission once the constitution of the Programme and Budget Committee is approved by the 19th General Assembly. Designation is by name and will be done during the 93rd session of the Executive Council in 2012 and the 24th Joint CAP-CSA Meeting to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in May 2012.

⁶ In order to select the winners of the 6 regional prizes, a jury was established composed of the Chairs of the 6 Regional Commissions of the UNWTO, one representative of the host country (Republic of Korea), one representative of UNWTO's Communications programme, and a prominent communications professional designated by the Organization. Each member of the jury voted for 3 posters from each region, except his or her own region in the case of representatives of the member countries

12. The **Regional Director** presented to the Commission a report on the major activities the UNWTO has undertaken in the Asia-Pacific region since the 23rd Joint Meeting of the Commission for South Asia and the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2011. In line with UNWTO's strategic objectives since its 18th General Assembly in Kazakhstan in 2009, the focus of the activities was on competitiveness and sustainability. These activities include inter alia, the UNWTO Conference on Mainstreaming Tourism in the Media, the UNWTO Seminar on Tourism Ethics for Asia-Pacific region, Special International Symposium on the Revitalisation of Japan's Tourism Sector and Earthquake-affected Areas, the 5th Asia-Pacific Executive Training Programme and the 2nd Workshop on Statistics Capacity-building Programme for Asia and the Pacific

13. This was followed by a presentation by the Chief of **UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific** about the recovery process of the tourism industry of Japan after the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami of March 2011. The presentation also highlighted UNWTO's contribution to the recovery through its publicity of "Japan's Recovery Website" linked to the homepage of the Organization.

14. UNWTO also joined hands with Japan Tourism Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organise the "Special International Symposium on the Revitalization of Japan's Tourism Sector and Quake Affected Regions".

15. In the Secretary-General's meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister which received a very significant media exposure, he conveyed a strong message about the fact that Japan's tourism industry will come out of the crisis stronger than before, and can help drive the recovery process. He also stressed the need for the international community and the public and private sectors to work together to accelerate the recuperation and revitalisation of Japan.

OTHER MATTERS

Agenda item 8

16. No issues were raised.

PLACE AND DATE OF THE FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Agenda item 9

17. The 50th commission meeting will be held during the 20th session of the UNWTO General Assembly which will take place at Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe in 2013.

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