



2017
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
FOR DEVELOPMENT



Madrid/Manila, 29 May 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are honoured to invite you to the **6th International Conference on Tourism Statistics: *Measuring Sustainable Tourism*** in Manila, Philippines, from 21 to 24 June 2017. Supported by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), this landmark conference is jointly organized by the Department of Tourism of the Philippines and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

UNWTO International Conferences on Tourism Statistics are organized every five to ten years and have, historically, served to consolidate key advances and contributed to setting an agenda for the coming years. This 6th edition is also an official event of the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

Sustainable tourism is increasingly relevant in national agendas for its role in fostering economic growth, social inclusiveness and the protection of cultural and natural assets. This is now also recognized at the highest international level with the UN General Assembly having adopted four resolutions since 2012 acknowledging the role of tourism in sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Conference will kick-off with a Ministerial Roundtable where inspiring leaders will put forth the need for more integrated, credible data to manage and to promote a more sustainable tourism sector. A Declaration will be adopted on the need for Tourism Ministers, Statistical Chiefs, and Environmental Officials to work together in developing and implementing statistical tools to assess and measure tourism's contribution in achieving the SDGs. The Conference will also proceed with a presentation of the 1st draft of the Statistical Framework for Measuring Sustainable Tourism for discussion, as well as country experiences and the voice of other key data users.

We are convinced that your participation will instil a lasting mark into the Conference and its Declaration.

The official website of the event, and registration, is available at: www.mstconference.org.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Taleb Rifai
Secretary-General
UNWTO

Wanda Corazon Tulfo-Teo
Secretary of Tourism
Department of Tourism of the Philippines