

**International Conference on Religious Tourism:  
*Fostering sustainable socio-economic development in host communities*  
Bethlehem, State of Palestine, 15-16 June 2015**

**Session 4: Inclusive socio-economic development of local communities – promoting partnerships that work**

**Moderator: I Gede Ardika, Member of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, former Minister of Tourism and Culture of Indonesia**



**Bio:**

I Gede Ardika held several positions at the Ministry of Tourism, Post and Telecommunications of the Republic of Indonesia, before being appointed as Director General of Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia and as Minister for Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia consecutively in two separate cabinets.

Now, he is a member of the bilateral Eminent Persons' Group of the Republic of Indonesia & Republic of Korea, an Honorary Life Member of Pacific Asia Tourism Association, a member of the UNWTO World Committee on Tourism Ethics, and Chairman of the Indonesian Heritage Trust.

As a member of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, he was indispensable in organizing the 2011 Seminar on Tourism Ethics for Asia and the Pacific, and in formulating the Spirit of Bali Statement on responsible tourism. He continues his involvement in projects assisting rural and indigenous communities across Indonesia in developing their own tourism products to incentivize both international and national tourism. Through his involvement in such initiatives, and his current role as a professor, he is a major advocate for safeguarding cultural identity and improving community livelihoods through tourism.