



UNWTO and ASEAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOURISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Legazpi City, Philippines, May 19-20, 2014

BACKGROUND

The Asia-Pacific Region has been at the forefront of tourism growth and development in the last decade and is set to continue leading world tourism in the decades to come. It is the most economically dynamic region in the world today and is a world leader in that much of what happens on the global sustainability agenda depends on what happens in this region.

Favorable climatic conditions at destinations are key attractions for tourists. Climate change can have a significant impact on tourism activities by altering the natural environment that represents both a key attraction and a basic resource for tourism.

Climate change will constitute an increasing risk for tourism operations in many destinations. Improving resilience to climate change is a priority for many destinations due to coastal erosion, damage to coral reefs, destruction of infrastructure and property, as well as risk to human life and health. Climate can also impact a wide range of other basic resources, essential for tourism, such as availability and quality of freshwater supply. Tourism more than many other sectors, touches every part of our society and it cross-cuts other sectors which also impact our climate, such as energy, transportation, manufacturing, agriculture, infrastructure and financial services.

The main objectives of this international Conference are to analyze the climate change impact on tourism, especially in the Asia Pacific region, to strengthen the sector's ability to address the threats and challenges of climate change. The sub-topics will include innovation and technology, institutional and capacity building, consumer behavior, and policy reforms.

The Conference will address a whole range of relevant issues, from the competitiveness and sustainability perspectives, identifying specific challenges and vulnerabilities and examples of relevant actions. A selection of successful implementation initiatives of low carbon tourism development, including climate change mitigation policies, installation of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and others, will be presented.

The Conference will also provide an opportunity to share with the international community, at the ministerial and expert levels, further knowledge and lessons learned on tourism and climate change from other countries. The event will conclude with a plenary session in which the conclusions and recommendations will be presented.

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Philippines, May 19-20, 2014

MONDAY May 19th, Ballroom, The Oriental Hotel

10:00 – 11:00 Opening Ceremony

- Welcome Remarks by Hon. Mr. Joey Salceda, Governor of the Province of Albay
- Opening Address by Hon. Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of UNWTO
- Introduction of the Guest of Honor by Hon. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. Secretary of Tourism
- Keynote address by H.E. Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Philippines

11:00 – 11:30 Tea & Coffee Break

SESSION 1

Policy and National Strategies on Tourism and Climate Change

The session aims at contributing to the international debate on broader frameworks, strategies and policies on tourism and climate change as well as to examine worldwide responses to these issues and review recent research and data. This will include a presentation of the findings of the latest publication of UNWTO on Responding to Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific.

Moderated by Anita Mendiratta (CNN)

Special presentation: Congratulatory Remarks by Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (video message)

11:30 – 13:30 ASEAN Framework, Parameters and Approaches on Tourism Responding to Climate Change

H.E. Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General

The New Realities of Tourism in an Era of Global Climate Change

Dr. Rebecca Nadin, Director INTASAVE Asia Pacific

Tourism Related Climate Change Initiatives in Asia and the Pacific, and Australian Experience

Dr. Andy Choi, Research Fellow, University of Queensland, Australia

Climate Change as a Major Crisis Event: Implications for a Tropical Nature Based Destination

Prof. Bruce Prideaux, School of Business, James Cook University, Australia

Development Partner's Perspective of Tourism and Climate Change

Mr. Reed Aeschliman, Deputy Mission Director, USAID Philippines.

Open Forum

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch

SESSION 2

Recovery and Resilience: Opportunities on Sustainable Tourism for Building a Low Carbon Development

Acknowledging the growing global research on these issues, this session will present the latest scientific data and projections on climate change and its impacts, including on the findings of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings and its relevance for the tourism sector. It will also address conceptual issues related to climate change, sustainability and tourism as well as the ongoing responses and initiatives from the various tourism stakeholders.

Moderated by Dr. Rebecca Nadin, Director INTASAVE Asia Pacific

15:00 – 16:30 Sustainable and Innovative Climate Change Initiatives in the Tourism Sector

Dr. Dirk Glaesser, Director, Sustainable Development of Tourism Programme,
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Role of Travel Agency in Tourism Risk Management

Mr. Yoshinori Ochi, Director of the Board and Secretary-General, Japan Association
of Travel Agents (JATA)

Advancing Renewable Energy: Lessons Learnt from Islands for Destinations

Mr. Jeffrey Skeer, Senior Programme Officer - Technology Cooperation, International
Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Inclusion of the Private Sector in the Planning and Development Process

Mr. Martin Craigs, CEO and Chairperson, Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)

Open Forum

16:30 – 17:00 Tea & Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00 Philippine Climate Change Policies and Initiatives

Hon. Mary Ann Lucille L. Sering, Secretary, Climate Change Commission, the Philippines

From Davos to Now... and Beyond: the Importance of the Latest IPCC Findings for the Tourism Sector

Professor Geoffrey Lipman, Creative Disruption Architect, Greenerth.travel and
President of International Coalition of Tourism Partners (ICTP)

Panelists: Multi-stakeholders Perspective

- Mr. Imtiaz Muqbil, Executive Director, Travel Impact Newswire, Thailand

- Mr. John Koldowski, Head of the Service Innovation and Development Unit, College of Innovation, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Open Forum

TUESDAY May 20th, Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Hotel

SESSION 3

Stimulating Consumer Behavior on Innovative Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Actions

Important progress has been made on multiple fronts to devise mitigating and adaptive strategies to combat the impacts of climate change on the tourism sector particularly on vulnerable tourism destinations such as coastal zones. However, much needs to be done and the academic, private and policy actors are discussing new ways to improve adaptation to climate change, which includes changes in behaviors and practices. The session will provide some general ideas/insights/theories on consumer behavior in tourism under a climate change perspective (climate-friendly or sustainable behavior choices) and empirical evidence on attitudes and acceptance towards such behavior options including very recent data collected on these issues.

Moderated by Ms. Cherrylyn Rodolfo, University of Asia and the Pacific

09:30 – 11:00 Consumer Behavior and Tourists Responses to Climate Change
Prof. Dr. Martin Lohmann, University of Luneburg – Leuphana, Germany

The influence of Online Travel Reviews and Public Attitude to Climate Change
Mr. Joel Fisher, TripAdvisor, Director of Display Advertising Sales for Asia Pacific

Making the Hotel Business Resilient to Extreme Weather Situations
Mr. Mariglo Laririt, Director, El Nido Resorts

STREAM achievements from MTCE perspective
Mr. Frans Teguh, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia (MTCE)

Open Forum

11:00 – 11:30 Tea & Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 Visitor Destination Tools for Managing Climate Change
Mr. Geoff Buckley, Managing Director, New Earth Tourism Pty Ltd., Australia

Open Forum

12:30 - 13:00 Closing Session

Presentation of the Legaspi Declaration on Tourism's Response to Climate Change

Dr. Dirk Glaesser, Director, Sustainable Development of Tourism Programme,
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Adoption of the Legaspi Declaration on Tourism's Response to Climate Change

Closing Remarks

Mr. Zhu Shanzhong, Executive Director for Technical Cooperation and Services
(UNWTO)

Mr. Daniel G. Corpuz, Undersecretary, Department of Tourism, Philippines and
Country Coordinator for ASEAN Tourism and Climate Change Initiative

Lunch

Afternoon Technical Tour