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TWG7

**APEC TOURISM WORKING GROUP: SEVENTH MEETING:
KANAZAWA, JAPAN: 3 - 4 OCTOBER 1995**

CHAIR'S REPORT

I. GENERAL

1. The APEC Tourism Working Group held its seventh meeting on October 3 - 4, 1995 in Kanazawa, Japan. Representatives of 17 member economies participated. The representative of the APEC Secretariat also participated. The representative of PECC attended as an observer, and representatives of PATA, WTO and UNESCO attended as guests. The list of delegates, observer and guests appears as Annex 1.
2. The Working Group meeting was chaired by Mr. Makoto Washizu, Director of Planning Division, Department of Tourism, Transport Policy Bureau, Ministry of Transport, Japan.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

3. Mr. Yukio Kusuki, Director-General of Department of Tourism, Transport Policy Bureau, Ministry of Transport of Japan, welcomed the delegates and made opening remarks on behalf of Japan as the host economy.
4. Mr. Kusuki noted that Japan considers tourism promotion an important pillar to establish society where we can have a feeling that we are enjoying leisurely life and richness, and that under these circumstances, the APEC Tourism Working Group meeting has a special meaning for Japan which is now discussing future directions of tourism policies.
5. The Working Group Shepherd, Mr. Asman Akhir Nasution, Expert Staff, Ministry of Tourism, Post & Telecommunications Indonesia, thanked Japan and made brief opening remarks.
6. He emphasized that it is essential to promote tourism as an economic sector and develop diversified tourism products to meet the needs and wants of tourists. He asked the delegates present to put in their valuable ideas to develop "tangible tourism products." He also pointed out that it is important to improve infrastructure and superstructure for the development of tourism in the region. He suggested that the Tourism Working Group work closely together with other APEC working groups as well as non-members to

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develop new projects.

III. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The draft agenda as contained in TWG/WG7/PLEN/2 was adopted. The chair suggested that a drafting committee for the Chair's Report be established. Australia, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and Japan volunteered to be members.

IV. REPORT FROM SHEPHERD

8. The report was included in the opening remarks of Mr. Nasution, Lead Shepherd, Indonesia.

V. REPORT FROM THE APEC SECRETARIAT

9. Mr. Claudio Rojas, Director (Program) of the APEC Secretariat, made presentations on the review of the operation account, procedures for assessment and evaluation of APEC projects and draft 1996 operational account and report of the Tourism Working Group to the Sapporo SOM (TWG/WG7/PLEN/4).
10. Indonesia suggested that existing and future projects be carefully studied and evaluated so that they can be beneficial not only to the tourism sector but also to other related sectors.

VI. TOURISM WORKING GROUP CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACTION AGENDA AND RELATED ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE MINISTERIAL AND LEADERS MEETING IN OSAKA

- Review of the TWG Action Program presented at the Sapporo SOM for modifications and update

11. At the suggestion of Papua New Guinea it was agreed that this item be discussed after item 8 - Voluntary Reports from Delegations.

After discussions, it was agreed that the following modifications be made:

(1) 10) under b. Initial Actions on page 2:

The phrase "where practical" should be added at the end of the sentence;

(2) 3 c. Environment Projects:

This text should be replaced by new text prepared by New Zealand.

(3) c. under 4 Dialogue on Member Economies Policies/Activities on page 4:

The phrase "economies members" in the third line should read "member economies."

12. The TWG agreed to finalize this Action Program at this Kanazawa meeting and report to the Tokyo Senior Officials' Meeting.

VII. PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECTS OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP

TWG 02/95: Tourism and the Environment (New Zealand) Publication and Distribution of the Proceedings of the Symposium

13. New Zealand made a progress report (TWG/WG7/PLEN/6/1).
14. After discussions, it was agreed that APEC TWG emphasizes the importance of publicizing its activities through the publication of the report on the symposium rather than trying to obtain more royalty from the publication.
15. The meeting also concurred that the word "assistance" proposed by WTO is acceptable but the word "endorsement" is not because APEC and WTO are not working on an equal basis on this particular project.
16. New Zealand as project coordinator agreed to contact WTO and seek a formal outline of the WTO proposal. New Zealand is to involve the APEC Secretariat in negotiating an agreement with WTO so that any member economy which is interested in translation into its own language is allowed to do so.

TWG 03/95: Tourism and the Environment Symposium (New Zealand)

17. New Zealand submitted a draft of the Tourism and the Environment Symposium Proceedings to the meeting (TWG/WG7/PLEN/6/2) and asked members to check the details of the draft and send any comments to New Zealand within ten days of the end of this meeting.

TWG 04/95: Study of Impediments to Tourism Development in the APEC Region (Australia)

18. Australia made a progress report on the study of the impediments to tourism growth in the APEC region (TWG/WG7/PLEN/6/3).
19. It was pointed out that the closing date of September 15, 1995 for bidding had been too short and for future projects more time should be allowed. It was also suggested that in the future the receipt of all bids be acknowledged so that bidders may know whether their proposals have been received.

TWG 05/95: HRD Project on Training for Public Sector Tourism Administrators (Malaysia)

20. Malaysia reported on the completion of the project. Manuals were distributed and four modules of the video were shown. Concerns were expressed but the meeting noted that it was too late to make changes in the video.
21. It was confirmed that minor changes such as inappropriate use of terminology in the manual can be made and members who want to make such changes were requested to notify Malaysia before October 20, 1995.
22. The Secretariat will provide 250 copies of the manuals and video cassettes for distribution to member economies (10 copies each).
23. Malaysia was congratulated for completing this difficult task as project coordinator.

TWG 06/95: Sharing of Tourism Statistics (Singapore)

24. Singapore presented a progress report (TWG/WG7/PLEN/6/4).
25. Members who have any submissions to make were requested to send them to Singapore (attention to Poh Seok Chin, fax: 65-7349217) by October 18, 1995.

THE FEASIBILITY OF A STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
TOURISM ON THE APEC REGION (AUSTRALIA)

26. Australia made a presentation (TWG/WG/PLEN/6/5).
27. Australia asked the members whether they would endorse the basic concept of this project, and if endorsed, the steering committee could work out and submit details to the next TWG meeting.
28. It was pointed out that this project should not duplicate studies conducted by other organizations such as WTO. It was agreed that studies of other organizations regarding the economic impact of tourism on the APEC region should be examined.

DECENTRALIZED ELECTRONIC TOURISM DATABASE (AUSTRALIA)

29. Australia made a presentation on this project (TWG/WG7/PLEN/6/6).
30. Australia encouraged all members to load the categories of data agreed at TWG/6 on the ACDS BBS. It was pointed out that at a later stage it would be necessary to assess the merits of the system in comparison with Internet and other systems.
31. The Secretariat reminded the Meeting of Ministers urging that members use the ACDS BBS as a cost effective means of communication.

VIII. NEW PROJECT PROPOSAL

A. PHASE 5 OF THE TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT PROJECT (NEW ZEALAND)

32. New Zealand made a presentation (TWG/WG7/PLEN/7/1).
33. This agenda item is linked to item VI - The Action Program of the TWG. It was agreed to replace the text under item VI. 3. c. Environment Projects with a new outline of phase 5 of the Tourism and the Environment Project.
34. After discussions, the meeting agreed that:
 - (1) Members should submit comments on the draft proposal in writing to New Zealand before the next meeting ;
 - (2) New Zealand will chair the steering committee ; and
 - (3) TWG should seek assistance from UNESCO and other organizations.
35. It was also agreed that this project would focus on three themes - sharing of information, interagency linkage and environmental education.

B. A PROPOSAL TO HOLD A SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS THE REPORT ON THE IMPEDIMENTS STUDY (AUSTRALIA)

36. Australia explained this proposal (TWG/WG7/PLEN/7B).
37. The meeting endorsed the proposal as presented.

C. WITHDRAWAL OF PROJECT PROPOSAL

38. Chile withdrew the proposal (TWG/WG7/PLEN/7/2) on Tourism, Markets Information Exchange System but confirmed that it will work closely and actively in the implementation of all the other projects that were presented.

IX. OTHER PROJECTS

Environment Project (Japan)

39. Japan made a progress report on a study of tourism development and environmental preservation, which has been commissioned by the Ministry of Transport, and said that a complete study will be submitted at the next meeting. Japan also made a presentation on a project on which the Environment Agency, which is in charge of national parks, is currently working.

X. VOLUNTARY REPORTS FROM DELEGATIONS

40. Voluntary reports on recent local developments in their tourism sectors were provided by member economies, observer and guests.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Timing and Location of Future Meetings

41. China's offer to host the eighth meeting of the TWG was confirmed. The Chinese delegation provided a briefing on its arrangements for the meeting which will be held in Beijing on May 8 - 9, 1996.
42. Chile confirmed to host the ninth meeting in October 1996.

B. Other Matters

43. PATA proposed that it should be accredited as the coordinating agency for the TWG. The TWG endorsed the need to work closely with industry and international bodies working in the region, but after extensive discussions, the TWG did not, at this time, accept the PATA proposal.
44. Mr. Nasution, Lead Shepherd, Indonesia, suggested:
 - (1) UNESCO be invited to the next TWG meeting to be held in Beijing;
 - (2) Time framing be set for the implementation of the Action Program;
 - (3) Someone else take over the position of Lead Shepherd.
45. It was agreed that UNESCO should be invited to the next meeting.
46. The meeting concurred with the need to keep to the time frame for the implementation of the Action Program.

47. Mr. Nasution was kind enough to continue as Lead Shepherd. As for a co-shepherd/s, it was agreed that the number of co-shepherds and the rules for their selection should be discussed at the next TWG meeting.

XII. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE CHAIR'S REPORT

48. The meeting adopted the report.

XIII. CLOSING REMARKS

49. Mr. Washizu, the Chair, expressed his appreciation to the delegates for having active and fruitful discussions. He believed that this meeting would contribute to the promotion of tourism and liberalization of travel in the region. He felt that Japan has not received a sufficient number of visitors from abroad and is now making every effort to increase inbound tourist traffic. He mentioned that although Japan is currently faced with unfavorable factors such as the strong yen, it has a variety of tourism resources including cultural and natural assets. He again thanked the delegates for helping him chair the meeting smoothly.
50. Mr. Nasution, Lead Shepherd, expressed his appreciation to Japan for its arrangements for the meeting and warm hospitality. He emphasized that the TWG should make every effort to implement the results of this two-day meeting.
51. On behalf of the delegates at the meeting China thanked Japan, the host economy of the 7th TWG meeting, for its warm hospitality and good organization.