Travel Facilitation for Tourism

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Indonesia
Background

TOURISM is recognized as a vehicle for job creation, economic growth, and development in the Asia-Pacific (APEC Leaders’ Statement). It accounts for ±9% of world’s GDP, considering its direct, indirect and induce impacts.

ASIA PACIFIC is recognized as the region with the strongest growth in 2012 based on UNWTO Tourism Barometer and findings. The significant growth of tourism industry in Asia Pacific region hopefully would support to increase the role of tourism to become important pillar for economic development of the countries.
Background

1. APEC economic leader’s meeting, at Honolulu (2011) has launched the APEC travel facilitation initiative to explore ways to make travel in the region faster, easier, and more secure.

2. The APEC economic leader’s meeting, at Vladivostok, on 8-9 September 2012, has declared the recognition of the significance of travel and tourism as a vehicle for job creation, economic growth and development in the Asia-Pacific. This declaration also encourages facilitation of international travel to assess the liberalization of air transportation services and improves safety and security tourists’ products.

3. APEC has emphasized the agenda of Promoting Connectivity as the priority agenda to be implemented among APEC member’s countries, which is marked by the establishment of Travel Facilitation Initiative that has been launched by APEC Leaders in 2011 and 2012.

Importance

- APEC 2013 theme is RESILIENT ASIA-PACIFIC, ENGINE OF THE GLOBAL GROWTH with 3 priorities namely: Attaining the Bogor Goals; Achieving Sustainable Growth with Equity; and PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY.

- Travel and tourism sectors have proven themselves as resilient sectors in spite of any crisis. Due to the fact that the issue of Travel Facilitation Initiative (TFI) has become important element in Promoting Connectivity, THE ROLE OF INDONESIA as the host for APEC leaders meeting views that 2013 is a strategic moment to follow up discussion and to elaborate agenda on TFI in order to promote connectivity among APEC members’ countries on tourism.

- In line with this, the Transportation Minister Meeting will also be conducted in Japan, September 2013. Travel facilitation will certainly involve and require action in the transportation sector.

- In order to accelerate the implementation and integration of the agenda and to formulate action plan on Travel Facilitation for Tourism, the discussion of such issues is very important to boost this agenda.
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OBJECTIVES:
To allow all of the participants to discuss about their role, discuss their work, define agendas of work, and propose projects, that will further the agenda of travel facilitation for tourism.

PARTICIPANTS:
Members of the different working groups involved in the TFI.
1) Transportation Working Group (TPTWG)
2) Business Mobility Group (BMG)
3) Sub Committee on Customs and Procedures (SCCP)
4) Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF)
5) Tourism Working Group (TWG)
6) Different Stakeholders (UNWTO, WTTC, PATA, ICAO, etc)

Benefits
1. The event would educate the different working groups and stakeholders about travel facilitation, and the work their doing, so they can build complementary agendas on the issues.

2. It would provide a venue for the TFI to hold a stakeholders meeting and it would allow the different working groups to produce a deliverables on this subject as an outcome of the meeting

3. Provide a better scope on the projects presented by other TFI participating groups regarding the programs
Timeline of Deliverables

- **42nd APEC TWG in Solo, 24-25 April 2013**, Discussion on Travel Facilitation for Tourism: Tourist Airport Friendly Program, Trusted Traveler Program

- **43rd APEC TWG in KohSamui, Thailand, 13-16 August 2013**, Follow up workshop on priority aspects agreed at the 42nd APEC TWG Meeting

- **1-2 October 2013**, Recommendations/action plan of Travel Facilitation for Tourism by holding Special Session of APEC Tourism Ministers Meeting

- **7-8 October 2013**, to be included APEC Leaders’ Meeting: Statement on Travel Facilitation for Tourism in promoting connectivity