GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE

9th UNWTO ASIA/PACIFIC EXECUTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME ON TOURISM POLICY AND STRATEGY

Community Based Development and Tourism Recovery

28 April – 1 May 2015 in Bohol, Philippines

1. VENUE

The 9th UNWTO Asia Pacific Executive Training Programme on Tourism Policy and Strategy will be held at the **South Palms Resort Panglao** Island in Bohol, Philippines on the **28 April – 1 May 2015**.This year's programme is entitled **Community Based Development and Tourism Recovery**. It is co-organised by the UNWTO and the Department of Tourism, Philippines.

The South Palms Resort Panglao Island is a gorgeous and luxury beachfront resort just a step away from white sand and blue waters that offers tropical-inspired experience. The resort is approximately 30 minutes from the airport, making it an ideal jump-off point for Bohol's natural attractions such as the Tarsier Botanika Par, Hinagdanan Cave and popular diving sites.

South Palms Resort Panglao
Barangay Bolod Panglao, 6340 Bohol, Philippines
• Telephone: +632 501308•Fax: +632 5029106
• Email: info@southpalmsresort.com
• Website: www.southpalmsresort.com

2. HOST PROVINCE

Located at the heart of Central Visayas, the Island province of Bohol is the 10th largest island in the Philippines. With a total land area of 4,117.3 square kilometres, it is composed of an oval-shaped mainland surrounded by 72 smaller islands, developed from the magmatic tectonic mechanism which resulted from the under thrusting of the

southwest Philippine plate, east of Samar and Surigao. Bohol is well known for its enigmatic charm from the most famous tourist attraction, Chocolate Hills, and the home of one of the rare faunas found in the Philippines, Tarsier, to 16th century watchtowers and Jesuit Baroque mission churches. It is also surrounded by gentle coves and white sand beaches with the very best and most popular diving spots in Visayas.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Participants are requested to complete the attached application form and to return it to the UNWTO Secretariat by **27 March 2015**. Once on site, the badge and bag will be distributed to the participants at the registration desk on Tuesday, 28 April from 08:30 to 09:00 hrs.

4. ACCOMMODATION

The South Palms Resort Panglao is the venue of the training programme and the accommodation of the participants. The UNWTO will cover the single room cost for one participant from each member country.

The South Palms Resort Panglao offers a complementary use of fitness centre, swimming pool, and use of the Kayak and Paddle board to enjoy the beach resort. In addition, coffee/ tea making facility and bottles of mineral water are available in the guestroom. WIFI is free in all areas of the resort.

5. TRANSPORTATION

An economy class air ticket of round trip will be provided to participants. Participants are requested to supply their preferred flight arrangement on the registration forms. The UNWTO Secretariat will coordinate with the designated travel agency, who will issue the ticket accordingly.

Local transportation will be provided by the Philippine Department of Tourism for the registered participants from and to airport – hotel – airport and official functions.

6. SOCIAL EVENTS

The Philippine Department of Tourism will graciously provide a welcome and farewell dinners on 28 April 2015 and 01 May 2015, respectively at 07:00 PM in the evening.

7. FOOD

Vegetarian menu will be served for those participants who requested a special diet on their application form.

8. CUSTOMS REGULATION AND PROCEDURES

All arriving passengers are required to accomplish a Customs Declaration Form given on board. The Customs allow 400 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grams tobacco and 2 bottles of alcohol drink of not more than 1 litre each.

9. VISA REQUIREMENTS AND NATIONALITIES

Nationals from the following countries are allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa for a period of stay of **thirty (30) days or less**:

1. Australia
2. Brunei
3. Cambodia
4. Fiji
5. Indonesia
6. Japan
7. Republic of Korea
8. Laos
9. Malaysia
10. Mongolia
11. Myanmar
12. New Zealand
13. Papua New Guinea
14. Thailand
15. Vanuatu
16. Viet Nam

The following are allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa for a stay not exceeding **fourteen (14) days**:

1. Holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative (SAR) passports.
2. Holders of Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) passports.

The following are allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa for a stay not exceeding **seven (7) days**:

1. Holders of Macau-Portuguese passports
2. Holders of Hong Kong British passports.

General information concerning visa application is available at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs official website: http://www.dfa.gov.ph

10. USEFUL INFORMATION

Currency and Exchange Rate
The official currency is PESO(Php) and Centavo. 100 Centavos – 1 Peso. Coins in use are: 1, 5, 10, and 25 centavos, P1, P5 and P10. Bill denominations are: 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1000.
Dollars are exchanged throughout the country, approximately 1USD = 45 Peso.

Climate and Clothing
The Philippines has a tropical maritime climate and is usually hot and humid during March to May. June to October is rainy season while November to February is cool. The average temperature is around 25.5 °C (77.9 °F). It is advised to bring light clothing cotton tropical wear. However, business suites are required at official meetings.

Time Difference
The official time in the Philippines is 8 hours ahead of the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +8)

Official Language
English is the official language of the meeting. It is widely spoken and understood throughout the country.

Electricity
The standard voltage of the Philippines is 220 Volts a/c.

Business and Banking Hours
Private and government offices are open from 8 am to 5 pm or from 9am to 6pm during weekdays. Some are open from 8am to 12 noon on Saturdays. Banks are open from 9 am till 3pm Mondays to Fridays.

11. CONTACT INFORMATION

UNWTO SECRETARIAT	HOST COUNTRY
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