DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC &
THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA
AT THEIR TWENTY-EIGHTH JOINT MEETING

Nara, Japan, 3 June 2016

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AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Communication of the Chairman (i.e. Philippines) of the joint meeting

3. Communication of Co-Chairman (i.e. India) of the joint meeting

4. Report of the Secretary-General

5. Report on the implementation of the General Programme of Work

6. Report on regional activities:

7. Update on Technical Committees
   7.1. Programme and Budget Committee
   7.2. Committee on Tourism and Sustainability
   7.3. Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness
   7.4. Committee on Statistics and TSA

8. Tourism and Ethics

9. International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017

10. ST-EP International Organization

11. Tourism and Security: Towards a framework for a safe, secure and seamless travel

12. Affiliate Members' intervention and other matters

13. Place and date of the 29th joint meeting of the two commissions
PREAMBLE

1. The twenty-eighth joint meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia was held in Nara, Japan, on 3 June 2016. It was held in conjunction with the UNWTO International Conference on Tourism and Technology.

2. The meeting was chaired by Philippines and co-chaired by India. There were over one hundred participants representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, I. R. Iran, Japan, Laos, Macao (China), Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Affiliate members from Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand were also represented. In addition to these participants, member states from outside the region (i.e. Zimbabwe and Jamaica), officials from international and regional organizations as well as industry representatives attended the event. A list of participants with the names and contact details of all attendees is annexed to this report.

DECISIONS

CAP/CSA/DEC/1 (XXVIII)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/CSA/28/Prov.Ag.)

The two commissions,

Adopt the provisional agenda of their 28th joint meeting as contained in the document CAP/CSA/28/Prov. The final agenda of the meeting is located on the previous page (i.e. page 2).

CAP/CSA/DEC/2 (XXVIII)

COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Agenda item 2 (document CAP/CSA/28/2)

The Commissions,

Having heard the Chairman’s communication,

1. Thank him for his communication;
2. Join him to appreciate the Secretary-General for leading a dynamic organization and for his readiness to provide technical support to all members;
3. Share his pleasure about tourism receipts outpacing those of world merchandise trade for the 4th consecutive year;
4. Note with satisfaction that the UN has declared 2017 as the International Year of Tourism for Sustainable Development because of its recognition of tourism’s capacity to generate economic activity and contribute to sustainable growth.
COMMUNICATION OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSON

Agenda item 3 (document CAP/CSA/28/3)

The Commissions,

**Having heard** the communication of the Co-Chairman,

1. **Thank** him for his communication;

2. **Concur** that there is the need to raise awareness of the important contribution that sustainable and green tourism can make to development and to engage all stakeholders to make the sector a catalyst for positive change;

3. **Support** his point that improvement in connectivity and modernization of infrastructure, are very important challenges the region is facing in relation to travel and tourism; and that the key to the future development of tourism would be information exchange and research, innovation, cooperation and collaboration among members;

4. **Also agree** that innovation can play a leading role in the growth of tourism by way of introducing new products.

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CAP/CSA/DEC/4 (XXVIII)

**PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Agenda item 4 (document CAP/CSA/28/4)

The Commissions,

**Having heard** the preliminary remarks of the Secretary-General,

1. **Note** that in 2015 demand for international tourism remained strong with the number of international tourists reaching 1,184 million.

2. **Note with satisfaction** that with an increase of 50 million international more tourists in 2015 than in 2014, and a growth rate of 4.4%, this was the sixth consecutive year of above-average growth in arrivals since the 2009 global economic crisis, and in spite of, on-going geopolitical tensions, security concerns and health scares in some parts of the world.

3. **Appreciate** the fact that despite a weak and slow economic recovery, spending on international tourism grew significantly in 2015, proving the sector's relevance in stimulating economic growth, boosting exports and creating jobs for an increasing number of economies worldwide.

4. **Note with satisfaction** that with +5% increase, Asia and the Pacific recorded 13 million more international tourist arrivals to reach 277 million. Furthermore, data for the first two months of 2016 show a 5% increase in international tourist arrivals; with arrivals in Asia-Pacific region accounting for an 8% growth within this period.
5. **Applaud** the remarkable progress made by the Secretariat with the UNWTO/WTTC Open Letter on Travel and Tourism campaign – which from February 2011 when it started to June 2016, had managed to register the endorsement of 82 Heads of States and Government;

6. **Note with satisfaction** that 16 of the signatory countries of the Open Letter are from the Asia-Pacific region - namely (by date of acceptance): Indonesia, China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Mongolia, India, Laos, Cambodia, Iran, Maldives and Bangladesh;

7. **Note** that the seventh Meeting of the G20 Tourism Ministers that was held in Beijing, China on 20 May 2016 in the framework of the Chinese Presidency of the G20 was held in conjunction with the First World Conference on Tourism for Development organized jointly by UNWTO and the Government of the People’s Republic of China. The conference focused on the theme of ‘Sustainable Tourism as an effective tool for inclusive development.

8. **Note with satisfaction** that in the final Declaration of the G20 Tourism Ministers’ meeting, the G20 countries agreed to advance the contribution of tourism to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs;

9. **Take note** of UNWTO’s active engagement in the work of the United Nations, particularly with regard to the recently adopted SDGs and the recognised role of tourism in the socio-economic, environmental and cultural agenda, as highlighted in Goal 8/Target 8.9, Goal 12/Target 12b and Goal 14/Target 14.7;

10. **Support** the preparations of the Secretariat for the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and encourage UNWTO Member States to participate actively in its celebration;

11. **Thank** the Secretary-General for his report on the financial and administrative situation of the Organization and the fact that the year 2015 closed with members’ contributions balancing the Secretariat’s budgeted expenditures.

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**CAP/CZA/DE/5 (XXVIII)**

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK**

**Agenda item 5 (CAP/CZA28/5)**

**With regard to Programme of Work on Global Activities:**

The Commissions,

1. Having heard the report of the Executive Director for Programme and Coordination,
2. Thank him for informing them about the Organization’s implementation of its General Programme of Work covering July 2015- March 2016 and which centred on its two strategic pillars: improvement of competitiveness and quality, and the promotion of sustainability and ethics;

3. Congratulate the Secretariat on the release of 30 new publications, the organization of 50 events based on the above-mentioned strategic pillars;

4. Applaud the Secretariat’s active involvement in UN activities such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the global response to the Zika virus;

With regard to Technical Cooperation activities:

The Commissions,

Having heard the report of the Executive Director for Technical Cooperation and Services on the Implementation of the General Programme of Work / Global Activities (2014-2015) with special emphasis on technical assistance projects,

1. Thank the Secretariat for the detailed information on the 32 technical assistance missions undertaken in 27 countries by UNWTO in the various regions of the Organization during 2014-2015;

2. Appreciate the fact that the Asia-Pacific region is well-represented in the number of projects and missions completed, on-going and planned for 2016.

3. Note with interest that the projects focused on tourism master plans, capacity-building, evaluation of tourism statistics, ecotourism marketing and development and review of national tourism strategy.

CAP/CSA/DEC/6 (XXVIII)

REPORT ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES
Agenda item 6 (documents CAP/CSA/28/6)

With regard to overall regional activities:

Having heard the report of the Director of the Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific,

1. Thank him for the wide range of activities carried out in the region within the period under review including:
   
   • 1st World Conference on Tourism for Development (Beijing, China, May 2016)
- The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Euro-Asian Mountain Resorts Conference (Ulsan, Republic of Korea, October 2015)
- The 4\textsuperscript{th} Annual Conference of the Sustainable Tourism Observatories (Zhengzhou, China, October 2015)
- The 10\textsuperscript{th} UNWTO Asia-Pacific Executive Training Programme on Tourism Policy and Strategy (Seoul, Republic of Korea, April 2016)

2. 
\textbf{Congratulate} the Secretariat on organising the First World Conference on Tourism for Development in Beijing, China, which drew the participation of over 70 ministerial representations and over 1,000 participants to discuss how countries align their national development goals with sustainable tourism development;

3. 

\textbf{With regard to activities of the UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia-Pacific (RSOAP):}

Having heard the report of the Chief of the UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (RSOAP),

1. 
\textbf{Thank him} for supporting the mission and activities of UNWTO and for all the work that has been carried out within the period under review such as:
   
   - Translation of UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2015 and UNWTO World Tourism Barometer Press Release into Japanese
   - JATA Tourism EXPO Tokyo, Japan
   - International Tourism Seminar Osaka, Japan
   - Japan Sustainable Tourism Forum Oze, Japan

2. 
\textbf{Appreciate} RSOAP’s contribution to the promotion of UNWTO Affiliate membership among Japanese companies.

CAP/CSA/DEC/7 (XXVIII)

\textbf{UPDATE ON TECHNICAL COMMITTEES}

Agenda item 7 (documents CAP/CSA/28/7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.4)

The Commissions,

Having listened to various reports of the representatives of the technical committees
Thank Malaysia for the delivery of its report on the Programme and Budget Committee

Thank the Secretariat for the delivery of the report on the activities of the Committee for Tourism and Sustainability on behalf of China and Bhutan;

Thank the Republic of Korea for the delivery of its report on the activities of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness;

Thank India for the delivery of its report on the activities of the Committee on Statistics and TSA;

CAP/CSA/DEC/8 (XXVIII)

TOURISM AND ETHICS

Agenda item 8 (document CAP/CSA/28/8)

The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Executive Director for Programme and Coordination:

1. Thank him for his report;

2. Welcome the growing number of private sector entities signing the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;

3. Appreciate the important work of the Secretariat in the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics;

4. Call on the Member States to take part actively in the regular surveys on the Global Code of Ethics carried out by the Secretariat;

5. Thank the Secretariat for the ongoing process of the draft Convention on Tourism Ethics,

Having heard the presentation of the Head of Research of ECPAT on the Global Study on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism,

1. Thank him for the detailed information;

2. Appreciate the important work carried out by the High-Level Global Task force which resulted in this global study on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism;

3. Note the recommendations made in the study for actions to be taken by Ministries of Tourism and encourage Member States to share their experiences;

4. Call on the Committee on Tourism Ethics to continue its excellent work on this important topic.
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM FOR DEVELOPMENT 2017
Agenda item 9 (document CAP/CSA/28/9)

CAP/CSA/DEC/9 (XXVIII)

The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Secretary-General,

1. Thank him for the detailed information;

2. Thank Member States for supporting the adoption at the UN General Assembly of the resolution (A/RES/70/193) regarding the declaration of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development;

3. Welcome the creation of the Steering Committee for the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development;

4. Note with satisfaction that the International Year will highlight tourism’s role in fostering five pillars:
   a. Economic growth;
   b. Job creation, entrepreneurship and inclusiveness;
   c. Environmental preservation and effective resources management;
   d. The promotion and protection of cultural values and heritage,
   e. Cultural diversity, mutual understanding and peace

5. Support the five key lines of action outlined in the document namely:
   a. Advocacy,
   b. Public awareness,
   c. Knowledge creation and dissemination,
   d. Policy,
   e. Corporate Social Responsibility and Public-Private Partnership

6. Note the proposal of the Secretariat to hold the opening and the closing ceremony in Europe: namely in Madrid (Spain) and Geneva (Switzerland) respectively;

7. Strongly encourage the Member States and the private tourism sector to actively participate and engage in the programmes and activities organized by UNWTO, as well as to lead their own initiatives to mark the importance of this International Year;

8. Thank the UNWTO Secretariat for coordinating the International Year activities.
The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Executive Director for Technical Cooperation and Services,

1. Thank him for his detailed report and background information that led to the establishment of the ST-EP International Organization;

2. Welcome the transformation of the ST-EP Foundation into a fully-fledged new International ST-EP Organization – the product of the two and a half years’ work of the UNWTO Member States and the ST-EP Foundation’s Board of Directors;

3. Encourage Members to join the new organization so that they can be part of the on-going endeavour to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction which are considered to be among the main challenges the world is facing today;

4. Second the Secretary-General’s words of appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Chairperson of the ST-EP Foundation for their support of the ST-EP initiative for the past 15 years.

The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Secretary-General:

1. Thank him for his report on tourism and security;

2. Note that the Organization has been working since 2009 when the 18th General Assembly resolution (A/RES/578(XVIII) on the Declaration on the Facilitation of Tourist Travel, entrusted the Secretary-General with the promotion of the principles set in the Declaration, including the use of modern information and communication technologies, in relation to travel advisories and visa facilitation;
3. Commend the Secretary-General for the increase in the number of travellers who cross borders of other countries without visas from 23% to 39% reflecting one of the results of this work;

4. Note further that UNWTO’s latest Visa Openness Report has found that the share of tourists required to obtain a traditional visa prior to travelling continues to decline and is currently at its lowest recorded level;

5. Note however that current security concerns are threatening the recent advances registered in travel facilitation and seamless travel around the world; thus travel facilitation is now not an easy concept to talk about owing to terrorism and cyber security;

6. Support therefore UNWTO’s Senior Management’s proposal to the Executive Council to place the promotion of a safe and seamless travel framework as one of the priorities within the Programme of Work 2016-2017;

7. Express satisfaction about Indonesia’s new visa policy that allows 169 countries to enter into the country without visas, as well as the fact that according to UNWTO’s visa openness index, ASEAN countries’ openness amount to 88%;

8. Applaud the Secretary-General for highlighting UNWTO’s close collaboration with UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) in the common objective of promoting a safe, secure and seamless travel environment at the High Level Meeting on Tourism and Security during FITUR (Feria Internacional de Turismo – International Tourism Fair) in Madrid, in January 2016.

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**AFFILIATE MEMBERS’ INTERVENTION AND OTHER MATTERS**

**Agenda item 12**

**Affiliate members’ intervention**

CAP/CSA/DEC/12 (XXVIII)

The Commissions,

Having listened to the Chairman of the Affiliate Members,

1. Thank him for his detailed presentation on the activities of the Affiliate members;

2. Applaud the various projects and events carried out and planned for such as:
   - Global report on public-private partnership
   - Cultural Routes: volume 12
   - First UNWTO Conference on Wine Tourism
   - UNWTO Conference on Talent Development
Other matters

The Commissions,

Having listened to the brief interventions of several members,

1. Note Bhutan’s two-pronged request to the UNWTO Secretariat: a) to publish a document on Budget and activities of National Tourism Organizations as a follow-up to the publication on Budgets & Marketing Plans of National Tourism Administrators of 1995. This is intended to raise awareness about how much other NTOs are spending on different marketing activities; b) to conduct a workshop on this subject in order to draw lessons from the best practices of different NTOs in the marketing or promotion of destinations.

2. Note Indonesia’s request to UNWTO to undertake a study on e-visas and their impact on tourism growth; also note its commitment to the acceleration of tourism in a sustainable manner and the intention to organise a conference on sustainability in 2017;

3. Note Sri Lanka’s invitation to members to attend the UNWTO Conference on Tourism: a Catalyst for Development, Peace and Reconciliation (Passikudah, Sri Lanka, 11 -14 July 2016);

4. Note Vietnam’s invitation to members to attend the UNWTO International Conference on Tourism and Sports (Da Nang, Vietnam, 24-25 September 2016);

5. Note with interest Macao’s launch of its tourism master plan and its invitation to members to take part in the consultation process;

6. Note IFT’s (Macao Institute of Tourism) invitation to members to take part in its capacity-building programmes;

7. Note that ASEAN will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2017.

PLACE AND DATE OF THE
TWENTY-NINTH JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO COMMISSIONS

Agenda item 13 (document CAP/CSA/28/13)

CAP/CSA/DEC/13 (XXVIII)

The Commissions,

Having listened to the Secretariat’s brief introduction to this item and to Bangladesh’s short intervention of re confirmation of interest,

Accept with gratitude Bangladesh’s offer to host the 29th joint meeting of the two commissions on its territory during the first half of 2017.
ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

MEMBER STATES

1) Cambodia

Mr. Tith CHANTHA
Secretary of State of Tourism
Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia
Lot 3A, Street 169, Sangkat Veal Vong
Khan 7 Makara,
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia
Tel: +855 12 883 378
Fax: +855 23 884 917
chanthatith63@gmail.com

Mr. Chhun NAK
Deputy Director
International Cooperation & ASEN Dept.
Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia
Lot 3A, Street 169, Sangkat Veal Vong
Khan 7 Makara,
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia
Tel: +855 16 379 007
Fax: +855 23 884 917
nak_asean@yahoo.com

Mr. Khut KIM HOUT
Assistant to Deputy Minister
Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia
Lot 3A, Street 169, Sangkat Veal Vong
Khan 7 Makara,
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia
Tel: +855 16 379 007
Fax: +855 23 884 917
nak_asean@yahoo.com

2) China

Mr. Peng ZHI KAI
Director General
Supervision & Management Department
China National Tourism Administration
No. 9A, Jinguomennei Ave.,
Beijing 100740, CHINA
Tel: 0086 10 65201824
Fax: 0086 10 65122851
wgc@cnta.gov.cn

Mr. Lu YUQUAN
Director
China National Tourism Administration Tokyo Office
105-0001 Air China Building 8F, 2-5-2 Toranomon
Minato-Ku, Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81 3 3591 8686
Fax: +81 33591 6886
1321254243@qq.com

3) Indonesia

Mr. Surana
Deputy Director
Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy
Jl Medan Merteka Barat 17
Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 3838 538
Fax: +62 21 2341 883
suranasu@gmail.com

Ms. Iin Dwi PURWANTI
Assistant Deputy Director
Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy
Jl Medan Merteka Barat 17
Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 3838 557
Fax: +62 21 2341 883
idpurwanti@gmail.com

Mr. Mohamad ARIEF KHUMAIDI
Cabinet Secretary
Tourism, Research and Technology, and Maritime Environment
Cabinet Secretariat of Republic of Indonesia
Veteran Street
muhammadhilmansyah90@gmail.com

Mr. Muhammad HILMANSYAH
Cabinet Secretariat
Republic of Indonesia (Presidential Office)
muhammadhilmansyah90@gmail.com

4) Japan

Mr. Akihiro TAMURA
Commissioner
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JTA (Japan Tourism Agency)
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8918, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5352-8922

Ms. Yuri FURUSAWA
Vice-Commissioner
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JTA (Japan Tourism Agency)
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8918, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5352-8922
Mr. Yoshiaki TAKAHASHI
Director for International Affairs
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JTA (Japan Tourism Agency)
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8918, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5352-8922
takahashi-y2hr@mlit.go.jp

Mr. Koichi TAKATSUKI
Director for International Tourism Relations
International Affairs Division
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JTA (Japan Tourism Agency)
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8918, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5352-8922
Takatsuki-k2j8@mlit.go.jp

Ms. Mieko KOYANAGI
Deputy Director, International Affairs Division
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JTA (Japan Tourism Agency)
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8918, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5352-8922
koyanagi-m2m5@mlit.go.jp

Ms. Maaya OSAWA
Chief Official
International Affairs Division
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JTA (Japan Tourism Agency)
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8918, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5352-8922
Ohsawa-m2up@mlit.go.jp

Ms. Atsumi TAKEUCHI
Official
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JTA (Japan Tourism Agency)
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8918, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5352-8922
Takeuchi-a2ny@mlit.go.jp

Ms. KITAMURA
Official
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JTA (Japan Tourism Agency)
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8918, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5352-8922
kitamura-n2r7@mlit.go.jp

Mr. Yoshiaki HOMPO
Advisor
Japan Tourism Agency
unthompo@gmail.com

Mr. Shintaro HORI
First Secretary
Embassy of Japan in India
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

5) Lao PDR

Ms. Phonemaly INTHAPHOME
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
Lane Xang Avenue, P.O.Box 3556, Vientiane, Lao PDR
phonemalylilly0901@hotmail.com

Mr. Sonephet KEOVONGSA
Deputy Director of Public Relations Division
Department of Tourism Marketing
Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
Lane Xang Avenue, P.O.Box 3556, Vientiane, Lao PDR
sonephetvongsa@gmail.com

6) Malaysia

Dr. Junaida LEE ABDULLAH
Deputy Secretary General (Management)
Deputy Secretary General’s Office
Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia,
Level 13, No. 2, Tower 1, Jalan P5/6, Precinct 5, 62200
Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +601 8891 7073
Fax: +603 8891 7061
Junaidalee@motac.gov.my

Ms. Nadia Monira MOHAMED TAIB
Senior Assistant Secretary
Tourism Policy and International Affairs Division
Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia,
Level 13, No. 2, Tower 1, Jalan P5/6, Precinct 5, 62200
Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +601 8891 7373
Fax: +603 8891 7365
nadiamonira@motac.gov.my

Mr. Suhaimi SHAHARUDDIN
Director
Tourism Malaysia Osaka
10th Floor, Cotton Nissay Building,
1-8-2 Utsubo-Honmachi,
Nishi-ku, 5500004 Osaka, Japan.
Tel: +8166 444 1220
Fax: +8166 444 1220
nadiamonira@motac.gov.my

7) Mongolia

Ms. Banzragch MARGAD
Head of Department
Department of Tourism Policy and Coordination
Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism
Government Building-2
United Nation’s Street 5/2
8) **Myanmar**

**Mr. Myo MYINT**  
Director  
Project Department  
Ministry of Hotels and Tourism  
Building No. 33, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism  
Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Tel: +95 9 2151327  
Fax: +95 67 406247  
thandar.mki@gmail.com

**Mr. Tin Htoo MAUNG**  
District Administrator Office  
Nyaung-U General Administrative Department  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Mandalay Division, Myanmar  
Tel: +959 2151327  
htoosan24@gmail.com

**Mr. Soe LIN**  
Deputy Director (Engineer)  
Department of Archaeology and National Museum,  
MoCuI, Bagan  
Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

9) **Philippines**

**Mr. Rolando CANIZAL**  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Tourism Development Planning  
Philippine Department of Tourism  
The New DOT Building  
351 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Extension, Makati City  
Tel: +63 2 890 0544  
rcanizal@tourism.gov.ph  
dot.pfed@gmail.com

**Mr. Alex MACATUNO**  
Chief  
Policy Formulation and Evaluation Division  
Philippine Department of Tourism  
The New DOT Building  
351 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Extension, Makati City  
Tel: +63 459 52 00 to 30  
ammacatuno@tourism.gov.ph  
dot.pfed@gmail.com

10) **Republic of Korea**

**Mr. Woosung LEE**  
Director General  
International Tourism Policy Bureau  
Ministry of Sports, Culture and Tourism  
388, Galmae-ro, Sejong-si 339-012, Korea  
Tel: +82 44 203 2805-6  
Fax: +82 44 203 3480  
nimdahi@korea.kr  
usachina@korea.kr

**Ms. Eun-ju LEE**  
Deputy Director  
Strategic Market Management Division  
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism  
388, Galmae-ro, Sejong-si 301-019, Korea  
Tel: +82 44 203 2896  
Fax: +82 44 203 3480  
fermaten@korea.kr

**Ms. Ka Jin LEE**  
Assistant Director  
International Tourism Planning Division  
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism  
388, Galmae-ro, Sejong-si 301-019, Korea  
Tel: +82 44 203 2860  
Fax: +82  
nimdahi@korea.kr

11) **Thailand**

**Mr. Pongpanu SVETARUNDRA**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Tourism and Sports  
4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Ave, Pomparbsattrupai, Wat Somanas, Bangkok 10100  
Tel: +66 2 356 0684  
Fax: +66 2 356 0678  
pongpanu@mof.go.th  
mrgunp@gmail.com

**Ms. Mingkwan CHITAPONG**  
International Affairs Officer, Professional Level  
Ministry of Tourism and Sports  
4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Ave, Pomparbsattrupai, Wat Somanas, Bangkok 10100  
Tel: +66 2 356 0684  
Fax: +66 2 356 0678  
mchitapong@hotmail.com

**Mr. Boonsan PRASERTKULCHAI**  
Planning and Policy Analyst  
Ministry of Tourism and Sports  
4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Ave, Pomparbsattrupai, Wat Somanas, Bangkok 10100  
Tel: +66 2 356 0684  
Fax: +66 2 356 0678  
mrgunp@gmail.com
Mr. Gun PUNTUHONG
International Affairs Officer
Ministry of Tourism and Sports
4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Ave, Pomparbsattrupai, Wat Somanans, Bangkok 10100
Tel: +662 356 0684
Fax: +662 356 0678
mrgunp@gmail.com

12) Timor-Leste

Mr. Jose Filipe Dias QUINTAS
Director of Tourism Marketing & International Relations
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture
Road Avenida de Motael No. 2 Farol Dili, Timor Leste
Tel: +670 331 14 99
Fax: +670 331 77 77/ 333 90 16
josequintas2003@yahoo.co.uk

13) Vietnam

Mr. Dinh Ngoc DUC
Director General
Marketing Department
Vietnam National Administration of Tourism,
Ministry Of Culture, Sports and Tourism
80 Quan Su Street,
Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Tel: +844 3 9423760/EXT 120
Fax: +844 3 9424115
dinhngocduc@vietnamtourism.gov.vn

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1) Macao, China

Ms. Heng Sai, Cecilia TSE
Deputy Director
Macau Government Tourist Office
Alameda Dr. Carlos d’Assumpcao, nos 335-341, Edif.
Hotline Centre, 12 Andar, Macau
Tel: +853 8397 1601
Fax: +853 2837 4321
cecitse@macautourism.gov.mo

Ms. Mei Va, Kathy LONG
Head of Communication and External Relations
Department
Macau Government Tourist Office
Alameda Dr. Carlos d’Assumpcao, nos 335-341, Edif.
Hotline Centre, 12 Andar, Macau
Tel: +853 8397 1105
Fax: +853 2837 2454
kationg@macautourism.gov.mo

Mr. Tek Keong , Dominic CHANG
Senior Executive
Communication and External Relations Department
Macau Government Tourist Office
Alameda Dr. Carlos d’Assumpcao, nos 335-341, Edif.
Hotline Centre, 12 Andar, Macau
Tel: +853 8397 1616
Fax: +853 2837 2454
dchang@macautourism.gov.mo

UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA

MEMBER STATES

1) Bangladesh

Mr. S.M. Ghulam FAROOQUE
Secretary
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
Building No. 06 (19th floor), Bangladesh Secretariat,
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Tel: 88 02 9512281
Fax: 88 02 9540841
smcat@yahoo.com

Mr. Aktar AHAMED
Deputy Manager
Bangladesh Tourism Board
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
Level-3, Building No-2, BSL Office Complex
(Hotel InterContinental) 1, Minto Road. Dhaka-1000
Phone: Dhaka, Bangladesh
Tel: 88 0258315954
aktarkst@yahoo.com

Mr. MD TAUHIDUR RAHMAN
Protocol Officer to Minister
Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism
Level-3, Building No-2, BSL Office Complex
(Hotel InterContinental) 1, Minto Road. Dhaka-1000
Phone: Dhaka, Bangladesh
Tel: 88 0258315954
tauhidrahman67@gmail.com

2) Bhutan

Mr. Damcho RINZIN
Senior Marketing Officer
Tourism Council of Bhutan
P.B. #126, Tarayana Center,
Thimphu, BHUTAN
Tel: +975-02-323251
Fax: +975-02-323695
kinzzza@gmail.com
3) India

Mr. Vinod ZUTSHI
Secretary
Ministry of Tourism
Government of India
Transport Bhawan
1 Parliament Street
New Delhi, INDIA
Tel: 0091 11 237 18310
Fax: 0091 11 237 31506
sectour@nic.in

Ms. Bidisha SENGUPTA
Assistant Director
India Tourism Tokyo/East Asia
Ministry of Tourism
Isei Building, 7/8 Floor, 1-8-17, Ginza, Chuo-ku
Tokyo, Japan- 104-0061
Tel: +81-3-3561-0651/0652
Fax: + 81-3-3561-0655
indtourt@smile.ocn.ne.jp

4) I. R. Iran

Mr. Seyed Ali SALEH POUR
Deputy Director General for Tourism Marketing and Promotion
Iran Cultural, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHTO)
3rd Floor, No.18 Larestan St. Motahai Ave. Tehran, I.R. Iran
Tel: +98 21 88949017
Fax: +98 21 88949117
salehpour.ali@gmail.com

5) Nepal

Mr. Danduraj GHIMIRE
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977 1-4211870
Fax: 977 1-4211758
ghimiredandu@gmail.com

6) Sri Lanka

Mr. Janaka SUGATHADASA
Secretary
Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Affairs
6th Floor, Rakshana Mandiraya* No. 21, Vauxhall Street
Colombo 02, Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094 112669880
Fax: 0094 112669880

Mr. Malraj Bharatha KIRIELLA
Director General
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
80, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094 112544534
Fax: 0094 112380943
malrajbk@srilanka.travel

OTHER MEMBER STATES

1) Jamaica

Mr. Edmund BARTLETT
Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism Jamaica
Chairman and Co-Founder of CTICO
Chairman, the Board of Affiliate Members of UNWTO
Ministry of Tourism of Jamaica
Jamaica Tourism Centre
1st & 3rd Floors
64 Knutsford Boulevard Kingston 5, Jamaica, West Indies
Tel: +876 920 4945 6
edmund.bartlett@mot.gov.jm

2) Zimbabwe

Mr. Walter MZEMBI
Minister
Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry
6th Floor John Boyne Building, Cnr Innex Terrace & Speke Avenue
P.O. Box 1718 Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 4 770897
Fax: +263 4 758790
wmzembi@gmail.com

Mr. Stuart Harold COMBERBACH
Permanent Secretary
Office for the President and Cabinet
P.O. Box 7701
Causeway Harare
Telephone - +263 4 796265
stuartcomb5@hotmail.com

Ms. Audrey Bongai CHIGOGO
Principal Tourism Officer
Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry
9th Floor Tourism House 55 Samora Machel Avenue
Box CY 1718 Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 4 770897
Fax: +263 4 758790
audrybongai@gmail.com

Mr. Karikoga KASEKE
Chief Executive
Zimbabwe Tourism Authority
Tourism House, 55 Samora Machel Ave
P.O. Box CY 286 Causeway, Harare
Tel: +263 4 758712/4
Fax: +263 4 758797
**CAP and CSA AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

1) **Discovery MICE**

Mr. Choon Loong LEE  
CEO  
Discovery MICE  
48b, Jalan Memanda 9, Ampang, 68000,  
Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA  
Tel: 603-42574688  
Fax: 603-42522689  
leechoonloong@discoverymice.com

Ms. Kuan Leng LAI  
Intern  
Discovery MICE  
48b, Jalan Memanda 9, Ampang, 68000,  
Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA  
Tel: 603-42574688  
Fax: 603-42522689  
admin@discoverymice.com

2) **Hokkaido University**

Mr. Yusuke ISHIGURO  
Associate Professor of Center for Advanced Tourism Studies  
Kita 17 Nishi 8, Kita-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan  
Tel: (81)11 706 5382  
Fax: (81)11 706 5362  
ishiguro@cats.hokudai.ac.jp

3) **Hong Kong Tourism Board**

Mr. Anthony LAU  
Executive Director  
Hong Kong Tourism Board  
9-11/F Citicorp Center 18 Whitfield Road  
North Point, Hong Kong  
Tel: +852 2807 6543  
Fax: +852 2806 0303  
anthony.lau@hktb.com

Ms. Amy LAM  
Senior Manager, Public Relations  
Hong Kong Tourism Board  
9-11/F Citicorp Center 18 Whitfield Road  
North Point, Hong Kong  
Tel: +852 2807 6543  
Fax: +852 2806 0303  
amy.lam@hktb.com

Mr. Kazunori HORI  
Regional Director, Japan  
Hong Kong Tourism Board  
9-11/F Citicorp Center 18 Whitfield Road  
North Point, Hong Kong  
Tel: +852 2807 6543

4) **Institute for Tourism Studies, Macao**

Ms. Mei Kun IAN  
Vice- President  
Institute for Tourism Studies, Macao  
Colina de Mong-ha, Macao  
Tel: +853 85983085  
Fax: +853 28521694  
flor@ift.edu.mo

5) **Japan Association of Travel Agents**

Mr. Hiromi TAGAWA  
Chairman  
Japan Association of Travel Agents  
Zen-Nittsu Kasumigaseki Bldg. 3-3 Kasumigaseki 3 chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0013 Japan  
Tel: +81 3 3592 1269  
Fax: +81 3 3592 1268

Mr. Nobuyuki IKEDA  
Deputy Secretary General  
T-EXPO Japan Promotion Office  
Zen-Nittsu Kasumigaseki Bldg. 3-3 Kasumigaseki 3 chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0013 Japan  
Tel: +81 3 3592 1269  
Fax: +81 3 3592 1268  
n-ikeda@jata-net.or.jp

Mr. Hiroshi SAWABE  
Executive Director  
Outbound Travel Promotion Division, Center for International Tourism  
Zen-Nittsu Kasumigaseki Bldg. 3-3 Kasumigaseki 3 chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0013 Japan  
Tel: +81 3 3592 1269  
Fax: +81 3 3592 1268  
sawabe@jata-net.or.jp

Mr. Yuji IIDA  
Director  
Japan Association of Travel Agents  
Zen-Nittsu Kasumigaseki Bldg. 3-3 Kasumigaseki 3 chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0013 Japan  
Tel: +81 3 3592 1269  
Fax: +81 3 3592 1268  
y-iida@jata-net.or.jp

Mr. Yosuke SUMIKURA  
Secretary General/Kansai Secretariat  
4F Osaka City, Air Terminal (OCAT) Building 1-4-1 Minatomachi Naniwa-ku  
Osaka 556-0017  
Japan  
Tel: +81 6 6635 3080  
Fax: +81 6 6635 3082  
sumikura-kanai@jata-net.or.jp
Ms. Maya P. MATSUOKA  
Staff  
Outbound Travel Promotion Division  
Japan Association of Travel Agents  
Zen-Nittsu Kasumigaseki Bldg. 3-3 Kasumigaseki 3 chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0013 Japan  
Tel: +81 3 3592 1269  
Fax: +81 3 3592 1268  
M-matsuoka@jata-net.or.jp

Mr. Toru FURUSAWA  
Senior Advisor to CEO, General Manager, Int'l Affairs & Tourism Promotion  
Global Business Unit Headquarters  
JTB Bldg. 2-3-11, Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan 140-8604  
Tel: +81-3-5796-5400  
t_furusawa258@hd.jtb.jp

Mr. Atsushi TANAKA  
Manager  
JTB Tourism Research and Consulting Co.  
JTB Bldg. 2-3-11, Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan 140-8604  
Tel: +81-3-5796-5400  
atsushit@tourism.jp

6) Japan National Tourism Organization

Mr. Ryoichi MATSUYAMA  
President  
Japan National Tourism Organization  
10th Floor, Tokyo Kotsu Kaikn Building 2-10-1  
Yuraku-cho, Chiyoda-ku, 100-0006, JAPAN  
Tel: +81-3-3216-2903  
Fax: +81-3-3214-7680  
strategy@jnto.go.jp

Ms. Akiko YOSHIDA  
Executive Vice President  
Japan National Tourism Organization  
10th Floor, Tokyo Kotsu Kaikn Building 2-10-1  
Yuraku-cho, Chiyoda-ku, 100-0006, JAPAN  
Tel: +81-3-3216-2903  
Fax: +81-3-3214-7680  
strategy@jnto.go.jp

Mr. Ryo ITO  
Senior assistant manager  
Inbound Tourism Strategy Department  
Japan National Tourism Organization  
10th Floor, Tokyo Kotsu Kaikn Building 2-10-1  
Yuraku-cho, Chiyoda-ku, 100-0006, JAPAN  
Tel: +81-3-3216-2903  
Fax: +81-3-3214-7680  
ryo_ito@jnto.go.jp

Ms. Akiko NAKAYAMA  
Staff  
Inbound Tourism Strategy Department  
Japan National Tourism Organization  
10th Floor, Tokyo Kotsu Kaikn Building 2-10-1  
Yuraku-cho, Chiyoda-ku, 100-0006, JAPAN  
Tel: +81-3-3216-2903  
Fax: +81-3-3214-7680  
ry_oito@jnto.go.jp

7) Japan Tourism Bureau Corporation

Mr. Shuichi MUTO  
Senior Manager, Policy Secretary  
Administration Department  
JTB Bldg. 2-3-11, Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan 140-8604  
Tel: +81-3-5796-5400  
s_muto472@hd.jtb.jp

8) Japan Tourism Bureau Foundation

Mr. Ryunosuke KAWAMURA  
Researcher  
Tourism Research Department  
17th Floor, Asahi Seimei Otemachi Building, 2-6-1, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, 100-0004 JAPAN  
Tel: +81 3 5255 6071  
Fax:+81 3 5255 6076  
kawamura@jtb.or.jp

Ms. Akiko KAWAGUCHI  
Senior Researcher  
17th Floor, Asahi Seimei Otemachi Building, 2-6-1, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, 100-0004 JAPAN  
Tel: +81 3 5255 6071  
Fax: +81 3 5255 6076  
kawaguchi@jtb.or.jp

9) Japan Association of Travel Agents

Mr. Yoshinori OCHI  
Director of the Board and Secretary General  
Japan Association of Travel Agents  
Zen-Nittsu Kasumigaseki Bldg. 3-3 Kasumigaseki 3 chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0013 Japan  
Tel: +81 3 3592 1269  
Fax: +81 3 3592 1268  
y-ochi@jata-net.or.jp

10) Kerala Institute of Tourism and Travel Studies

Dr. Rajashree AJITH  
Director  
Kerala Institute of Tourism and Travel Studies  
Department of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala  
Residency Compound, Thycaud P.O. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.  
Tel: +91 471 2329468  
Fax: +91 471 2323989  
director@kittsedu.org
11) Kyoto University

Mr. Aki-Hiro SATO  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Applied Mathematics and Physics, Graduate School of Informatics  
Yoshidahonmachi, Sakyo Ward, Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture  
Tel: +81 075 753 7531  
aki@i.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Ms. Madoka KOBAYASHI  
Office of Society-Academia Collaboration for Innovation  
Yoshidahonmachi, Sakyo Ward, Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture  
Tel: +81 075 753 7531  
aki@i.kyoto-u.ac.jp

12) Kyung Hee University

Mr. Seungmin LEE  
Assistant Editor  
UNWTO Asia Pacific Newsletter  
Kyung Hee University  
311, School of Hotel and Tourism Management, Kyung Hee University, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea  
Tel: 0082 2 962 2204  
ap_news29@daum.net

Mr. Kim HYUNSU  
Graduate Student  
Kyung Hee University  
311, School of Hotel and Tourism Management, Kyung Hee University, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea  
Tel: 0082 2 962 2204  
ap_news29@daum.net

13) Shoin University

Mr. Manabu Koga  
Professor  
Faculty of Tourism and Cultural Studies  
9-1 Morinosatowakamiya, Atsugi, Kanagawa Prefecture 243-0124  
Japan  
Tel: + 81 046 247 1511  
m-koga@shoin-u.ac.jp

14) Thailand Convention and Visitors Bureau

Ms. Waraporn SORNPRROM  
Senior Manager  
Corporate Policy and Strategy  
Corporate Strategy Development Department  
Thailand Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Siam Tower, 26th Floor, 989 Rama I Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand  
Tel: +66 2 694 6000  
Fax: +66 2 658 1411  
Waraporn_s@tceb.or.th

Mr. Takerngsak CHAIYAKARN  
Senior Manager, Research and Development  
Corporate Strategy Development Department  
Thailand Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Siam Tower, 26th Floor, 989 Rama I Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand  
Tel: +66 2 694 6000  
Fax: +66 2 658 1411  
takerngsak_c@tceb.or.th

15) Toyo University

Mr. Yoshihiko IJIIMA  
Professor  
Department of International Tourism Studies  
5-28-20 Hakusan, Bunkyo-ku  
Tokyo 112-8606 Japan  
iijima@toyo.jp

Mr. Takashi SHIMAKAWA  
Associate Professor  
Department of International Tourism Studies  
5-28-20 Hakusan, Bunkyo-ku  
Tokyo 112-8606 Japan  
shimakawa@toyo.jp

Mr. Keiichi NAGAI  
Researcher  
Department of International Tourism Studies  
5-28-20 Hakusan, Bunkyo-ku  
Tokyo 112-8606 Japan  
nagai174@toyo.jp

16) Wakayama University

Ms. Kumi KATO  
Professor  
Faculty of Tourism/ Center for Tourism Research  
930 Sakaedani, Wakayama city, Wakayama 640-8510, Japan  
Tel: (81)73 457 7025  
Tourism-ctr@center.wakayama-u.ac.jp

Mr. Takuya FUJII  
Coordinator  
Center for Tourism Research  
930 Sakaedani, Wakayama city, Wakayama 640-8510, Japan  
Tel: (81)73 457 7025  
Tourism-ctr@center.wakayama-u.ac.jp

Ms. Riho OBARA  
Student  
Center for Tourism Research
Ms. Eva DEMARCSEK
Student
Center for Tourism Research
930 Sakaedani, Wakayama city, Wakayama 640-8510, Japan
demarcsek.eva@gmail.com

Ms. Miku HAYASHI
Student
Center for Tourism Research
930 Sakaedani, Wakayama city, Wakayama 640-8510, Japan
shi-chan320@docomo.ne.jp

Ms. Honoka KAWASAKI
Student
Center for Tourism Research
930 Sakaedani, Wakayama city, Wakayama 640-8510, Japan
honoka_0212_0412@yahoo.co.jp

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

1) Amadeus Asia Limited
Mr. Jackson K. PEK
Group Director
Vice President and General Counsel, Asia Pacific
87/1 Capital Tower
All Seasons Place, 23rd Floor
Wireless Rd., Lumpini
Phatumwan, Bangkok 10330
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 677 8372
Fax: +66 81 830 2153
jpek@amadeus.com

2) Asia Pacific Institute of Research
Mr. Yasuhiro TAKAHASHI
General Manager
Inbound
7th Floor, Knowledge Capital Tower C, Grand Front
Osaka-3-1 Ofukacho, Kita-ku, 530-0011
Osaka, Japan
takahashi-y@apir.or.jp

3) Association of Myanmar Architects
Mr. Si Thu Myint SWE
Treasurer/ Executive Committee Member
No (228-234), 3rd Floor,
Bo Gyoke Aung San Road,
Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Building, Botataung Tsp.
Yangon, Myanmar

Tel: 09 731 54460
amarchitects2001@gmail.com

Ms. Khin Swe OO
Joint Secretary
No (228-234), 3rd Floor,
Bo Gyoke Aung San Road,
Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Building, Botataung Tsp,
Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: 09 731 54460
amarchitects2001@gmail.com

4) Aureum Palace Hotel (Bagan)
Mr. Kyaw Kyaw LWIN
Resident Manager
Aureum Palace Hotel
Near Bagan Viewing Tower,
Min Nanthu Village, Nyaung Oo
Old Bagan, Myanmar
Tel: +95 61 60 046

5) Amazing Bagan
Mr. Ohn THWIN
General Manager
Amazing Bagan Resort
Nyaung Oo Township, Mandalay
Division, Bagan, Myanmar
Tel: +95 61 60 035
Amazing.alsr@amazing-hotel.com

6) East Japan Railway Company
Mr. Hiroyuki SAWADA
Deputy General Manager
Tourism Strategy Office
East Japan Railway Company
2-2-2 Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81 3 5334 1151
hiro-sawada@jreast.co.jp

Mr. Takkuo TANIUCHI
Deputy Manager
Tourism Strategy Office
East Japan Railway Company
2-2-2 Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81 3 5334 1151
O1B1@jreast.co.jp

7) Hotel Asyl Nara
Mr. Takashi KOJIMA
1-58 Aburasaka-cho, Nara City
Nara, Japan 630-8247
Tel: +81 742 22 2577
Fax: +81 742 26 815
t-kojima@worldheritage.co.jp
Mr. Ngoc Thach HO
Staff
Guest Services
1-58 Aburasaka-cho, Nara City
Nara, Japan 630-8247
Tel: +81 742 22 2577
Fax: +81 742 26 815
ho-ngocthach@worldheritage.co.jp

Ms. Keiko NISHIKOTO
Deputy chair, Asia Pacific Charter
keiko-n@conbention.co.jp

9) JR West Japan Communication Company

Mr. Hisanori INOKI
Senior Manager
Sales Division
a-itou@jcomm.co.jp

Mr. Okamoto YASUFUMI
Global Business Management Department
ya-okamoto@jcomm.co.jp

Mr. Hiroo UCHIYAMA
General Manager
Sales Division
h-uchiyama@jcomm.co.jp

10) Kinki District Transport and Tourism Bureau

Mr. Ken FUKUNISHI
Director
Tourism Department
Kansai District Transport Bureau
4-1-76 Otemae, Chuo-ku
Osaka, Japan 540-8558, Japan
Tel: +81 6 6949 6466
Fukunishi-k57cr@mlit.go.jp

11) Nara City Hall

Mr. Shinji KAJIHARA
Director
Public Relations
kajihara-shinji@city.nara.lg.jp

12) Nara City Tourism Association

Mr. Tetsuo WASHIMI
Managing Director
1082 Sanjyohonmachi, Nara-city, Nara
Tel: + 81 0742 27 222
tetsu223@gmail.com

Ms. Fumie NAKAMURA
Chief Clerk
1082 Sanjyohonmach, Nara-city, Nara
Tel: + 81 0742 27 222
nakamura@narashikanko.or.jp

Ms. Yukiko TAKEUCHI
Management Office
1082 Sanjyohonmach, Nara-city, Nara
Tel: + 81 0742 27 222
takeuchi@narashikanko.or.jp

13) Microsoft

Mr. Erick STEPHENS
Chief Technology Officer- APC
Microsoft
Public Sector, Asia-Pacific
Singapore
Tel: +65 9088 4144
erickst@microsoft.com

14) Nara Prefectural University

Mr. Keisuke NAKAJIMA
Director General
NARA-EURASIA Institute
nakajima-keisuke@narapu.ac.jp

INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1) Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office

Mr. Jens THRAENHART
Executive Director
Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office c/o 5th Floor,
Department of Tourism Ministry of Tourism and Sports,
154 Rama 1 Road National Stadium, Wangmai,
Pathumwan Bangkok 10330, Thailand
Tel: +66 2612 4150 1
jthraenhart@gmail.com

2) Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)

Mr. Mario HARDY
CEO
Pacific Asia Travel Association
Unit B1, 28th Floor, Siam Tower,
989 Rama Road, Phatumwan
Bankok, 10330, THAILAND
Tel: (66-2) 658 2000
Fax: (66-2) 658 2010
Yuwarin@pata.org

Ms. Sarah MATHEWS
Head of Destination Marketing APAC
Trip Advisor
15F 100 Queen’s Road Central
Central, Hong Kong
3) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Yoshihito URANO
Special Advisor
Japan International Cooperation Agency
Nibancho Center Building 5-25
Niban-cho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-8012
Tel: +81-3-5226-6660
Urano.Yoshihito@jica.go.jp

4) ST-EP Foundation

Madame DHO YOUNG-SHIM
ST-EP Foundation
8F KNTO Building, 10 Da-dong, Jung-gu
Seoul 100-180, South Korea
Tel: +82 2 318 16626
Fax: +82 2 318 2163

5) United Nations Environment Programme

Ms. Azumi NISHIKAWA
Programme Assistant
International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2-110 Ryokuchi koen, Tsurumi-ku, Osaka 539-0036
JAPAN
Tel: +81 6 6915 4593
Fax: +81 6 6915 0304
azumi.nishikawa@unep.org

6) World Bank

Mr. Yasusuke TSUKAGOSHI
Special Representative, Japan
World Bank, Tokyo Office
Fukoku Seimei Building 10th Floor, Uchisaiwaicho 2-2-2,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN 100-0011
Tel: +81 3 3597 6650
Fax: +81 3 3597 6695
ytsukagoshi@worldbankgroup.org

7) ECPAT International

Mr. Mark Peert CAPALDI
Head of Research and Policy
ECPAT International
328 Phayathai Road, Rachathewi
Bangkok Thailand 10400
markc@ecpat.net

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (UNWTO)

Mr. Taleb RIFAI
Secretary General
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya, 42
28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: (34-91) 567 8100
Fax: (34-91) 571 3733
omt@unwto.org

Mr. Zoltan SOMOGYI
Executive Director
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya, 42
28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: (34-91) 567 8100
Fax: (34-91) 567 3733
scosta@unwto.org

Mr. Shanzhong ZHU
Executive Director
Technical Cooperation and Services
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya, 42
28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: (34-91) 567 8100
Fax: (34-91) 567 3733
ignieto@unwto.org

Mr. Xu JING
Executive Secretary of the General Assembly and the
Executive Council / Director of Regional Programme for
Asia and the Pacific
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya, 42
28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: (34-91) 567 8100
Fax: (34-91) 571 3733
jxu@unwto.org

Mr. Shuichi KAMEYAMA
Special Advisor for Secretary General
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya, 42
28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: (34-91) 567 8100
Fax: (34-91) 571 3733
skameyama@unwto.org

Mr. Harry Hae-guk HWANG
Deputy Director
Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya, 42
28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: (34-91) 567 8100
Fax: (34-91) 567 3733
hhwang@unwto.org
Mr. Junichi KUMADA
Senior Officer
Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya, 42
28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: (34-91) 567 8100
Fax: (34-91) 567 3733
jkumada@unwto.org

Ms. Christine BREW
Senior Programme Assistant
Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific
World Tourism Organization
Calle Capitán Haya, 42
28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: (34-91) 567 8100
Fax: (34-91) 567 3733
cbrew@unwto.org

UNWTO REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Mr. Tadaaki ASANUMA
Chief
UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
Silkia Nara 2F, 8-1, Sanjo-Honmachi, Nara, Japan
Tel: 81-742 30-3880
Fax: 81-742 30-3883
tasanuma@unwto-ap.org

Mr. Junichi FUKUDA
Deputy Chief
UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
Silkia Nara 2F, 8-1, Sanjo-Honmachi, Nara, Japan
Tel: 81-742 30-3880
Fax: 81-742 30-3883
jfukuda@unwto-ap.org

Mr. Tomoyoshi KURA
Manager, Finance and Administration
UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
Silkia Nara 2F, 8-1, Sanjo-Honmachi, Nara, Japan
Tel: 81-742 30-3880
Fax: 81-742 30-3883
tkura@unwto.org

Mr. Daisuke FUJINAGA
Manager, External Relations
UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
Silkia Nara 2F, 8-1, Sanjo-Honmachi, Nara, Japan
Tel: 81-742 30-3880
Fax: 81-742 30-3883
dfujinaga@unwto-ap.org

Ms. Harmony LAMM
Deputy Manager for Program and Public Relations
UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
Silkia Nara 2F, 8-1, Sanjo-Honmachi, Nara, Japan
Tel: 81-742 30-3880
Fax: 81-742 30-3883
hlamm@unwto-ap.org

Ms. Junko YOSHIDA
Senior Assistant
UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
Silkia Nara 2F, 8-1, Sanjo-Honmachi, Nara, Japan
Tel: 81-742 30-3880
Fax: 81-742 30-3883
jyoshida@unwto-ap.org.