



**THE 17th ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)
11-15 January 2009, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR**

APPF/RES/3

**Resolution
on
Sustainable Tourism**
*(Sponsored by the Lao People's Democratic Republic
and the Republic of the Philippines)*

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Recognizing that tourism is an indispensable industry that has an economic, social, and environmental significance globally;

Reaffirming the significance of tourism towards the attainment of the principles of sustainable development, especially in developing countries where a large portion of the economy depends on tourism and tourism-related industries;

Recognizing the need for a collective effort of all APPF countries towards devising a strategic solution towards a sustainable tourism, and underlining the unconditional efforts of the World Tourism Organization and the healthy relationship of APPF and this organization;

Recalling Resolution No. 26GA/2005/Eco/01 adopted by the 26th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization General Assembly on Promoting Cultural and Eco-Tourism to Stimulate Economic Growth;

Noting the commitment to implement the ASEAN Tourism Agreement signed by the ASEAN leaders at the 8th ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh on 4 November 2002 and the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing ASEAN Tourism Cooperation by the ASEAN Tourism Ministers in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 3 February 2004;

Emphasizing that sustainable tourism embraces the concept of stewardship – a responsibility to care for the environment in a way that will preserve and enhance its well-being for residents and its appeal for the future visitors;

Having in mind that sustainable development pertains to progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet

their own needs, and that it should be responsive to the constraints of the natural and cultural environment;

Recognizing the importance of the tourism sector in generating employment and income thereby improving the living standards of the people and thus, help reduce poverty and narrow the development gap among APPF member states;

Realizing the effectiveness of engaging various stakeholders – government, local authorities, civil societies and the private sector - into programs on tourism development;

Placing greater emphasis on the need to act accordingly towards environmental protection, conservation, and restoration; seeing its unconditional benefit to sustainable tourism.

Hereby resolves to:

1. **Encourage** all APPF members to enhance planning for sustainable tourism development such as community-based tourism circuits and supply chains between production villages and tourism markets, and to expedite necessary actions towards the improvement of tourism-related social services;
2. **Urge** all APPF members to pursue cooperation between the government, the private sector, and local communities towards a more participative action concerning the development of the industry and the conservation of cultural resources, especially the communities concerned;
3. **Call** on APPF states to implement stricter statutes on environmental conservation, to devise immediate action towards environmental restoration, to promote the development of tourism-related infrastructure projects, enhance mutual assistance in human resource development, strengthen cooperation and to develop, upgrade and expand tourism and travel facilities and services in APPF countries, particularly in those states with the least developed infrastructure;
4. **Strengthen** the mechanisms on regional cooperation through technology transfer focusing on effective ways to terminate the hazardous effects of tourism-related activities to the environment and consider extension of pecuniary assistance to developing countries that cannot afford to acquire such technology;
5. **Instigate** a participative action towards the efficient structural design of tourism-related facilities, and ensure the compliance of such facilities to environmental standards;

6. **Urge** all APPF members to establish a local accrediting body authorized on monitoring and supervising tourism-related industries to initiate competition among them and to certify these institutions for a range of levels of compliance and assuring that their facilities are in congruence to the principles of sustainable tourism;
7. **Establish** a continuous credible system of evaluation, monitoring, and accreditation of tourism services and destination;
8. **Request** APPF member states to set up a mechanism that enhance cooperation in the promotion of sustainable tourism development, in particular the least developed countries, through the exchange of information and experience, coordination of tourism policies and programs, sharing of best practices and expertise, marketing, training, research and information dissemination.