

Remarks on
The 1st Meeting of the APPU Working Group for Promoting Ecotourism
In Asia-Pacific Region
On 10 August 2010
At 13.30 hrs. in the Second Plenary Session of the 41st General Assembly

Honorable Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take this moment to inform the information on the 1st Meeting of the APPU Working Group for Promoting Ecotourism in Asia-Pacific Region.

Honorable Chairperson,

Honorable Parliamentarians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on organizing the 1st Meeting of the APPU Working Group for Promoting Ecotourism in Asia-Pacific Region, I would like to share with you all regarding the background, the information and the progress of the preparation of the event.

In implementing the resolution on the establishment of the APPU Working Group for Promoting Ecotourism in Asia-Pacific Region in the 74th council Meeting and the 40th General Assembly of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union, the Thai APPU National Group will be hosting the 1st meeting from 23 to 26 September 2010 at Kata Beach Resort and Spa, Phuket, Thailand.

The meeting also aims at promoting the activities of the APPU and to strengthen a cooperation among APPU member countries and developing ecotourism for the healthy ecology and community of Asia-Pacific region.

The meeting is going to be held in Phuket which is Thailand's largest island located in the southern part. It is the only island with provincial status, and has a rich and colorful history. Known as the Pearl of the Andaman, it derived much of its former glory and its enormous wealth from tin production dating back over 500 years. For its history, geography and culture, Phuket is one of the best tourist attractions for study visit on ecotourism.

Honorable Chairperson,

Honorable Parliamentarians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The meeting will start on 24 September, the morning session will be inaugural ceremony, adoption of the agenda, presentations and discussion on ecotourism management. In this session, representatives from member countries are invited to present a report on best practices on ecotourism management in their countries. In the afternoon session, study visits in Phuket including beaches, old town and batik house will be provided. In the evening, the Thai APPU National Group will host a reception dinner. On 25 September, in the morning all delegates will visit attractions in Phuket namely Bann Bang Rong, agro-tourism community, Bann Khanan, Thalang culture village, Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Centre. In the afternoon, there will be conclusions and closing session. Farewell Dinner will be held in the evening together with Phuket FantaSea cultural show.

While we expect 3-4 delegates from each delegation, there is no limitation of numbers of delegates from each member and observer country. In this connection, the Thai National Assembly will be responsible for accommodation for three nights from 23 September to noon 26 September for one representative from APPU Member and Observer delegations and APPU Secretary General. The information is in the brochure and document distributed to all participants and also provided on the website of the meeting. APPU Member and Observer delegations are also kindly invited to make registration online at the meeting website.

Honorable Chairperson,

Honorable Parliamentarians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope we will have an opportunity to welcome you all and other APPU Members and observer in Phuket, Thailand in next September.

Thank you for your kind attention.
