



Final Report

**TOURISM COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

ECO CHAMBER of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY

Oct 8 - 2013  
Tehran, I.R Iran



**Final Report of the  
Tourism Committee Meeting of  
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI)  
Oct 8, 2013- Tehran, I.R Iran**

1. The Fourth meeting of the Tourism Committee of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, hosted by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) was held on Oct 8, 2013 in Tehran-I.R Iran. The representatives of the Tourism Committee from Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Turkey, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Tajikistan (Commercial Attaché) , as well as delegates from the ECO Secretariat and ECO Trade and Development Bank participated in the meeting (list of participants :Annex I).

**Agenda Item No – 1: Inauguration of the Meeting**

2. Verses from the Holy Koran were recited to the session;  
Dr Karbasi, Secretary General of ECO CCI welcomed the participants.  
The Chairperson of the Tourism Committee Mrs Shabnam Bahrami Shabstari delivered her opening statement.

**Agenda Item No – 2: Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The draft agenda of the meeting given below was adopted by the Meeting :
  1. Inauguration of the Meeting;
  2. Adoption of the Agenda;
  3. Appointment of the Drafting Committee;
  4. Statement by the Chairperson of the Tourism Committee;
  5. Activity Report by Secretary General; ECO CCI;
  6. Remarks by heads of delegations;
  7. Points on implementations made regarding Holding of the First ECO Forum of Hotel Owners and Tour Operators by the ECO CCI Secretary General;
  8. Briefing on hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordination Meeting and the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states by Dr M.R Karbasi, Secretary General, ECO CCI;
  9. Presentation on “Significance of Tourism for Elevation of intra ECO Collaborations” by Mr Masoud Jalalian, Advisor to President and Director Int’l Bureau, Iran Cultural Heritage ,Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHTO)
  10. Notes on Importance of Tourism in Promotion of Cooperation among the ECO member Countries by Mrs Shabnam Bahrami Shabstari; Chairperson of the Tourism Committee of ECO CCI;
  11. Any Other Business;
  12. Date and Venue of the next Meeting;

13. Adoption of the Report;
14. Vote of Thanks.

### **Agenda Item No – 3: Appointment of the Drafting Committee**

4. An Open Ended Drafting Committee consisting of the Members of the Tourism Committee was formed to prepare the Draft Report of the Meeting.

### **Agenda Item No – 4: Statement by the Chairperson of Tourism Committee**

5. The Chairperson of Tourism Committee, Mrs Shabnam Bahrami Shabstari, delivered her presentation on behalf of the ICCIMA Tourism Commission on Tourism Capacities of the ECO Member States having 52 million tourists , Turkey topping the list , Iran second and Kyrgyzstan third with 36 , 4 and 3.1 millions of arrivals in 2012 respectively .

She then elaborated on the tourism communications of Iran and Turkey who ranked top in the ECO region and exchanged 1,100,000 tourists in 2012 and Turkey's success factors such as visa elimination and branding mentioning statistics and analysis of the tourism trends in member countries (Annex II).

- Chairperson of Tourism Committee suggested measures such as open sky, visa elimination, packaging and due attention to the Silk Road as well as promotion of tourism collaborations among the member countries speaking the same language.
- She expressed hope for formation of ECO Hotel Owners and Tour Operators Union as well as a databank and promotion of intra ECO collaborations in tourism.
- Mr Khosrow Abadi representative of Tehran Hotel Owners Union suggested that joint packaging and workshops as well as experience sharing tours for investors and hotel owners among the member countries either in bilateral and multilateral modes where the details of such initiatives would be determined through expert group meetings .

### **Agenda Item No – 5: Activity Report by Secretary General, ECO CCI**

6. Secretary General ECO CCI delivered a Report on the Activities of the ECO CCI Tourism Committee since the last meeting in Nov 2012 in Ankara in which he invited the participants to the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Health Tourism and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordination Committee of ECO Health Tourism in Nov 2013 in Mashhad, I.R Iran (Annex III).

### **Agenda Item No -6 : Remarks by heads of delegations**

7. Heads of participating delegates made their remarks under this agenda item.

Delegate from Pakistan , Mr Zubair Ahmed Malik, President FPCCI made a presentation to the meeting that the ECO is of higher potentials and other member countries have to be activated as some of them are having problems in their territories and they are being settled down.

- He motioned Visa Sticker as proposed be past Executive Committee and airline , operators connectivity as well as ECO Train (ITI) runs, Silk Road revival issues .

- Pakistan delegate proposed to have a study on the intra ECO Tourism problems and their proposed solutions.
- He called for utilization of the health tourism experiences and potentials of Pakistan.
- A Tourism week among the ECO member countries when delegations would be exchanged was among his proposals.

The Turkish delegate explained the reason for not participating at the Hotel Owners Forum because of the TOBB election process and expressed readiness for participation at the forum in 2014.

Furthermore Turkish delegation made a presentation to the session on the potentials of Turkey and ECO member countries in the area of Tourism compared to the global figures and mentioned the concept paper delivered by the TOBB to the previous ECO CCI Tourism Committee Meeting in Nov 2012 .

The Commercial Attaché of the Tajikistan Embassy in Tehran addressed the session on behalf of his country's chamber of commerce on trends and status of Tourism in Tajikistan with respect to cultural, historical and lingual common points of his respective country.

He said that Tajikistan has adopted low fare, quick and one month valid tourist visas in his country and explained the activities of Tajikistan Sports, Tourism and Youth National Committee and proposed the member states to cooperate with the committee.

- Tajik delegate called for adoption of a program for development of intra organizational collaborations among member states especially NGO's and private sector entities.
- Representative of the ECO Secretariat reviewed the expert and ministerial meetings held by the secretariat as well as publication of ECO Tourism Guide Book in this regard as well as ECO Tourism Promotion Fund with Azerbaijan , Turkey and Iran expressing readiness and Turkey's US\$ 50,0000 and Afghanistan US\$ 20,000 contribution. He raised the notion of supporting the relevant projects on tourism cooperation in ECO region by the ECO Secretariat and BoT of the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund.
- The Committee recommended the publication of 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Tourism Guide Book being considered by ECO Secretariat and the proposal of it being offered to next ministerial meeting for adoption.
- The ECO Secretariat delegate called for offering potential projects of tourism to the ECO TDB he further proposed the ECO Tourism Exhibition to be held among the member states in collaboration with the ECO CCI and expressed the readiness of his secretariat to receive project profiles for funding in collaboration with the ECO TDB.
- The TOBB reoffered to hold a one week experience sharing program on tourism with hospitality package in Istanbul for which ECO Secretariat is invited to provide the required financing and the Member Chambers are invited to present their nominees.

**Agenda Item No-7: Points on implementations made regarding Holding of the First ECO Forum of Hotel Owners and Tour Operators by the ECO CCI Secretary General;**

8. Points on implementations made regarding Holding of the First ECO Forum of Hotel Owners and Tour Operators were delivered to the meeting by the ECO CCI Secretary General under this agenda item which is going to be held in first quarter of 2014.

- The ECO CCI Secretary General proposed that the Bari Complex in Oroumiyeh be communicated for hosting the event or this event be held along with the experience sharing/ training program in Turkey.

**Agenda Item No-8: Briefing on hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordination Meeting and the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states by the ECO CCI Secretary General**

9. The implementations and the process of hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordination Meeting and the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states were enumerated under this item by the ECO CCI Secretary General.

He invited the member chambers to actively participate at the said events as well as 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Health Tourism in Nov 2013 in Mashhad, I.R Iran.

**Agenda Item No -9: Presentation on “Significance of Tourism for Elevation of intra ECO Collaborations” by Mr Masoud Jalalian, Advisor to President and Director Int’l Bureau, (ICHTO)**

10. Presentation was delivered to the session on “Significance of Tourism for Elevation of intra ECO Collaborations” by Mr Masoud Jalalian, Advisor to President and Director Int’l Bureau, Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHTO) where he proposed the health tourism offices be established in the member countries’ medical centers (Annex IV) .

**Agenda Item No -10: Notes on Importance of Tourism in Promotion of Cooperation among the ECO member Countries by Mrs. Shabnam Bahrami Shabstari; Chairperson of the Tourism Committee of ECO CCI;**

11. Under this agenda item points and remarks on Importance of Tourism in Promotion of Cooperation among the ECO member Countries were presented by Mrs. Shabnam Bahrami Shabstari; Chairperson of the Tourism Committee of ECO CCI to the attendees in which she mentioned for example the capacities of the ECO region in some tourism areas such Health Tourism which should be addressed inside the ECO region rather than referring to extra ECO sides.

She further called for applying international standards of medical and health tourism and implementing the earlier signed Memoranda of Understanding in area of tourism among the member states.

### **Agenda Item No – 11: Any other Business**

12. The participants raised other issues under this item.

- ECO TDB expressed readiness of the bank to finance the tourism services projects in the ECO region which have the feasibility studies whereas these studies also can be offered micro financing by the bank under certain circumstances.
- Tourism Commission ICCIMA addressed the session on potentials of the tourism in the region proposing to have tourism attaches in the member countries' respective embassies and summarize the decisions of ECO CCI Specialized Committees and appointing sub committees in each member country to follow up the implementation of the decisions of each committee.
- The Meeting, while acknowledging the huge potentials of the region in different sectors of tourism industry, recommended the member states to explore and introduce investment projects of regional significance for the purpose of mobilizing national and international financial resources and also welcomed the offer of the ECO TDB for financing feasible projects and supporting feasibility studies in this area.

### **Agenda Item No – 12: Date and Venue of the next Meeting**

13. Regarding on date and venue of the fifth Meeting of Tourism Committee of ECO CCI it was decided to refer the issue to the decision of the Executive Committee Meeting .

### **Agenda Item No – 13: Adoption of the Report**

14. The Meeting unanimously adopted the Draft Report of fourth Tourism Committee Meeting of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) and decided to present the Report to the 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee of ECO CCI.

### **Agenda Item No – 14: Vote of Thanks**

15. The participating Heads of delegations/members offered their thanks for the excellent arrangements made to Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) for holding this important meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants during their stay in Tehran, The participants also appreciated the contribution of the ECO Secretariat for providing the necessary assistance and support.