



REPORT

**TOURISM COMMITTEE
MEETING**

ECO CHAMBER of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY

Sep 2,2014
Karachi, I.R Pakistan



**Report of the
Fifth Tourism Committee Meeting of
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI)
Sep 2, 2014 Karachi, I.R Pakistan**

The Fifth meeting of the Tourism Committee of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, hosted by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) was held on Sep 2, 2014 in Karachi, I.R Pakistan.

The representatives of the Tourism Committee from member Chambers as well as delegates from the ECO Secretariat participated in the meeting (list at Annex I) .

Agenda Item No – 1: Inauguration of the Meeting

The Meeting was inaugurated with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.

H.E Mr Zakaria Usman , President of the FPCCI welcomed the participants of the of ECO CCI Tourism Committee.

Dr Karbasi ,Secretary General ECO CCI while thanking the President and staff of the FPCCI for the excellent arrangements and hospitality extended to the participating delegates. He also briefed about the main objectives of the ECO CCI meetings, Viz promotion and enhancement of intra ECO, trade which was around 8% in 2013 by exploiting the existing potentials for the elevation of intra ECO trade and investment collaborations.

Mrs Seyedeh Fatemeh Moghimi, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Tourism Committee delivered her opening welcome note.

Agenda Item No – 2: Adoption of the Agenda

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 the First ECO Forum of Hotel Owners and Tour Operators by the ECO CCI Secretary General to be organized in the member states.
8. Briefing on hosting of the 3rd Coordination Meeting and the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states by Dr M.R Karbasi, Secretary General, ECO CCI;
9. Discussions on holding an ECO tourism week in member states and its implications
10. Any Other Business;

11. Date and Venue of the next Meeting;
12. Adoption of the Report;
13. Vote of Thanks;

Agenda Item No – 3: Appointment of the Drafting Committee

An open ended Drafting Committee consisting of ECO CCI Secretariat and the Members of the Tourism Committee as well as some interested delegates was formed to prepare the Draft Report of the Meeting.

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

Mrs Seyedeh Fatemeh Moghimi, the Chairperson of the ECO CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council (ECO CCI WEC) on behalf of the Chairperson of the Tourism Committee delivered her speech on the activities of the ECO CCI Tourism Committee during the last year (Annex II).

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

Secretary General ECO CCI delivered a Report on the Activities of the ECO CCI Tourism Committee since the last meeting held in October 2013 (Annex III).

- ECO CCI was assigned to follow up with TOBB regarding the Workshop on Experience Sharing for Tourism to be held in Turkey.
- A Workshop on Health Tourism which was planned to be held in Turkey as approved by the 24th Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting held in Feb 2014 in Tehran, Iran was decided to be followed up by the ECO CCI.
- ECO CCI in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat is assigned to publish the 2nd ECO Tourism Guide Book.

The implementation and the process of hosting as well as achievements of the 3rd Coordination Meeting and the First Confobition (Conference + Exhibition) on Health Tourism in ECO member states held on Aug 18-20,2014 in Mazandaran Province I.R Iran were enumerated under this item by the ECO CCI Secretary General (Report at Annex IV).

He informed the house that the 2nd Confobition (Conference + Exhibition) on Health Tourism in ECO member states will be held in 2015 in Shiraz, Iran calling for the active participation of the member chambers in this event.

Agenda Item No -6 : Remarks by heads of delegations

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

- Mr Salman Jawed of FPCCI stated that the main obstacle for the promotion of intra ECO tourism is visa as well as the air connectivity and called for its removal and proposed that the ECO Secretariat shall launch a website dedicated to health tourism in the ECO region.
- Mr Dawood Moosa of Afghanistan gave a brief report on the status of tourism in his respective country which is in unsatisfactory condition due to security issues.
- The Turkish delegate Mrs Safak Civici suggested that a Road Map on the Health Tourism in the ECO member states be prepared by the ECO CCI.
- It was also proposed to establish an association of the ECO member states travel agencies with each of member states having an agency as the focal point.
- The ECO Secretariat informed the meeting that the Visa Simplification Agreement will be implemented when other member states will join it and the visa issues can also be addressed on bilateral basis by the member states.
- The Pakistani delegate Mr Ismail Suttar , Vice President FPCCI ,delivered a detailed presentation on the Tourism Potentials of Pakistan (Annex IV).
- The Turkish delegation made a presentation on the potentials for the intra ECO tourism which should be exploited to the best mentioning the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states held on Aug 18-20,2014 in Ramsar, I.R Iran as well as 5th Conference on Health Tourism to be held later this year in Mashhad, I.R Iran expressing the readiness of the Union of Turkish Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) for holding the Tourism Experience sharing Program with the financial support of the ECO Secretariat and the administrative support of the ECO CCI .

Agenda Item No-7: Points on the First ECO Forum of Hotel Owners and Tour Operators by the ECO CCI Secretary General to be organized in the member states.

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 calling for the active participation of the member chambers, hotel owners,tour operators and hospitals to this event.

- Pakistan offered to host First ECO Forum of Hotel Owners and Tour Operators

Agenda Item No-8: Briefing on hosting of the 3rd Coordination Meeting and the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states by the ECO CCI Secretary General

This item was covered under Agenda Item No – 5 (Report at Annex V)

- He stated that the 3rd Coordination Meeting will be held along with 5th Conference on Health Tourism later this year in Mashhad, I.R Iran calling for the active participation of the member states.

Agenda Item No -9: Discussions on holding an ECO tourism week in member states and its implications

Participants discussed holding of an ECO tourism week in member states and its implications under this item which was proposed by FPCCI.

- TOBB delegation mentioned their commitment to realize the Tourism Experience Sharing Program in Turkey, with a hospitality package offered by the TOBB apart from airfare tickets.

Agenda Item No – 10: Any other Business

- FPCCI proposed that special airfares should be offered to the group tours of member states by the airlines of the region.
- Regarding the scholarships on tourism in distance learning in Hotels and Tourism Colleges in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar, Pakistan reoffered to deliver these scholarships for which the ECO CCI shall follow up the matter with relevant institutions and inform the member chambers.
- Afyonkarahisar Commodity exchanges from Turkish delegation proposed hosting an event on “Health Tourism “ in Afyonkarahisar where there are developed rehabilitation facilities.

Agenda Item No – 11: Date and Venue of the next Meeting

The Meeting asked for the proposals on date and venue of the sixth Meeting of Tourism Committee of ECO CCI which was left for approval of the Executive Committee and General Assembly Meetings.

Agenda Item No – 12: Adoption of the Report

The Meeting adopted the Draft Report of Fifth Tourism Committee Meeting of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) and decided to present the Report to the 19th Executive Committee of ECO CCI for adoption.

Agenda Item No – 13: Vote of Thanks

The participating Heads of delegations/members offered their thanks for the excellent arrangements made by the Federation of Pakistan CCI’s for holding this important meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants during their stay in Karachi.

The participants also appreciated the contribution of the ECO Secretariat for providing the necessary assistance and support.