



REPORT

TOURISM COMMITTEE

ECO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY

TEHRAN – I. R. IRAN
17.01.2011



**Report
of the
Tourism Committee Meeting of
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI)
(January 17, 2011, Tehran, Iran)**

1. The first meeting of the Tourism Committee of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, hosted by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines (ICCIM) was held on January 17, 2011, in Tehran, I. R. Iran. The representatives of the Tourism Committee from Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Turkey, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Tajikistan as well as Mr. Khosrow Hajian, Programme Officer from the ECO Secretariat participated in the meeting. The list of the participants is attached as Annex-I.

Agenda Item No – 1: Inauguration of the Meeting

2. Recitation of verses from the Holy Koran;

The Chairman of the Tourism Committee Mr. Morteza Seyfzadeh delivered his opening statement. A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-II.

Agenda Item No – 2: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda of the meeting, already circulated to Member States and 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 Chairman of the Tourism Committee;
5. Statements/Presentations by the representatives of Member Chambers on capacities, potentials, ways and means of investment in tourism of their respective countries;
6. Statement by ICCIM Tourism Commission on Potentials of Cooperation among ECO Member States;
7. Report on results of the ECO Tourism Ministers Meetings;
8. Introductory Report by Mr Khosrow Iranpour, Secretary General, Iran Hotel Owners Union on 'Establishment of the ECO Tourism Holding Company';
9. Report by Dr Seyed Hassan Tabatabaei, Managing Director Imafar Co., on '1st Conference on Health Tourism of Islamic Countries (CHTIC 2010)' held on February 2-4, 2010 Mashhad , I. R. Iran and Establishment of OIC Health Tourism Association;
10. Remarks by Members of the Tourism Committee;
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. A Drafting Committee consisting of representatives and members of the Tourism Committee was formed to prepare the Draft Report of the Meeting.

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

5. The Chairman of Tourism Committee, Mr. Morteza Seyfzadeh delivered his speech. His statement is attached as Annex-III.

Agenda Item No – 5: Statements/Presentations by the representatives of Member Chambers on capacities, potentials, ways and means of investment in tourism of their respective countries

6. Members of the Tourism Committee of ECO CCI made statements on capacities, potentials, ways and means of investment in tourism of their respective countries. Copies of the statements/presentations are attached as Annex-IV.

The Meeting:

- Decided to display the views and the information presented at the ECO CCI website and the ECO Secretariat's tourism site.
- Called the Member Chambers to present reports on the capacities, potentials, ways and means of investment in tourism of their respective countries and requested the ECO CCI Secretariat to undertake a study for the tourism potential of the ECO region.
- Recommended the facilitation of joint packages for tourists from the ECO region with low prices and air fares by each and every ECO member countries and called upon all ECO members countries' airlines to:
 1. Do all possible to provide air links within ECO region either through starting direct operation or through code sharing.
 2. Grant discounted air fares to tourists/tourist groups for visiting to/within ECO region.
- Decided to exchange professionals among ECO countries and appreciated Turkey's and Pakistan's offer on training the tourism staffs of ECO countries.
- Recommended and called the Member Chambers to take active role in publicizing the tourism potential of the ECO regions in order to facilitate marketing.
- Called the ECO CCI Secretariat, in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat, to provide SWOT Analysis for the pros and cons of the tourism capabilities in the ECO region.
- Called the Member Chambers to relegate once more the issue of visa facilitation among ECO countries to the relevant government bodies of their respective countries and requested ECO Tourism Ministers' Council next meeting to consider granting visa to tourists buying INCLUSIVE tour packages from designated tour operators cleared by the respective governments.
- Appreciated the pioneering research and development work done by ICCIM on Halal tourism.

Agenda Item No – 6: Statement by ICCIM Tourism Commission on Potentials of Cooperation among ECO Member States

7. ICCIM Tourism Commission made a statement on ‘Potentials of Cooperating among ECO Member States’. A copy of the statement is attached as Annex-IV.

The meeting:

- Decided to mandate the ECO CCI Secretariat to work out a report on ways and means of cooperation in tourism among the member countries.
- Urged the Member Chambers to inform ECO CCI Secretariat about conferences, seminars or summits on tourism that take place in their respective countries in order to generate participation from the ECO countries and decided to take initiative for marketing the joint tourism packages on the occasion of these tourism events.
- Decided to upload tourism events in the ECO CCI website as well as the ECO Secretariat’s tourism website and suggested that these websites be translated into UN languages.
- Took note of the proposal made by the ECO Secretariat in publicizing a second ECO Tourism Guide Book for the ECO business community that will involve the areas of investment in the tourism sector.
- Appreciated the proposal made by ICCIM Tourism Commission in fostering religious tourism in the ECO region, focused on historical mosques, shrines and monuments.
- Urged member countries to promote sports tourism and business conventions within the region.

Agenda Item No-7: Report on results of the ECO Tourism Ministers Meetings

8. ICCIM presented a report on results of the ECO Tourism Ministers Meeting. A copy of the report is attached as Annex-V.

Agenda Item No – 8: Introductory Report by Mr Khosrow Iranpour, Secretary General, Iran Hotel Owners Union on ‘Establishment of the ECO CCI Tourism Holding Company’

9. Mr. Khosrow Iranpour, Secretary General of the Iran Hotel Owners Union presented an introductory report on ‘Establishment of the ECO Tourism Holding Company’. A copy of the report is attached as Annex-VI.

The Meeting:

- Called ICCIM to circulate the project paper on the “Establishment of the ECO Tourism Holding Company” among the Member Chambers for their considerations.
- Called the ECO CCI Secretariat to work out, with the cooperation of Member Chambers, on the possible projections of establishing ECO CCI Tourism Holding Company and establishing the branches of this Holding within each and every ECO Member Chamber to inform the next Committee Meeting.
- Recommended holding ECO Tourism Fairs & Exhibitions to display the capabilities and potentials of the region in this area.

- Called the ECO member countries to boost the resources of ECO Tourism Fund in order to further the services of the Fund to the private entities.
- Called holding Nawrooz Festivals in ECO countries in order to promote the cooperation of member countries in tourism and cultural areas.

Agenda Item No – 9: Report by Dr. Seyed Hassan Tabatabaei, Managing Director Imafar Co., on ‘1st Conference on Health Tourism of Islamic Countries (CHTIC 2010)’ held on Feb 2-4, 2010 Mashhad , I. R. Iran and Establishment of OIC Health Tourism Association

10. Dr. Seyed Hassan Tabatabaei, Managing Director of Imafar Co., presented the report of ‘Conference on Health Tourism of Islamic Countries (CHTIC 2010)’ and made a statement on ‘the Establishment of OIC Health Tourism Association’. The copy of the report and his statement is attached as Annex VII.

- The Meeting called ICCIM to circulate the report of the ‘1st Conference on Health Tourism of Islamic Countries (CHTIC 2010)’ held on Feb 2-4, 2010 Mashhad, I. R. Iran among Member Chambers and requested the ECO CCI Secretariat to generate views and proposals of the Member Chambers on the establishment of OIC Health Tourism Association in their respective Chambers.

Agenda Item No -10: Remarks by Members of the Tourism Committee

11. The Heads of Delegations/Presidents/Representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Member States made their remarks on the health tourism potentials of their countries.

The Meeting:

- Took note of Pakistan’s proposal on a Convention that must be signed among the tour operators of ECO countries in order to facilitate joint packaging in the field of tourism in general and health tourism in particular.
- Appreciated the offer made on creating common brands among ECO countries in the field of tourism.
- Took note of the proposal made by ICCIM on holding a “Hotels Forum” in order to explore the potentials and capacities of member countries in their hotel facilities and a “Tour Operators’ Forum” for identification of common products (such as Silk Road, desert safari, education tourism, health tourism) and preparation of joint packages.
- Recommended developing cooperation between the tour operators and hoteling associations for benefiting the opportunities of tourism activities between ECO member countries.

Agenda Item No – 11: Any other Business

12. The Meeting took note of the proposal made on generating a master plan covering the issues of the Committee Meeting in order to specify the standards of a joint tourism policy of the ECO private sector.

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

13. The proposals on date and venue of the 2nd Meeting of Tourism Committee meeting of ECO CCI has been discussed among the Heads of Delegations/Members ECO CCI Member Chambers and the Meeting decided:

- To hold the 2nd Meeting of the Tourism Committee of ECO CCI in Pakistan under the host of FPCCI; in case of a problem Turkey will host the meeting.
- To announce the date of the meeting after consulting with the President of ECO CCI.

Item No – 13: Adoption of the Report

14. The Meeting unanimously adopted the Draft Report of first Tourism Committee Meeting of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) and decided to present the Report to the 15th Executive Committee of ECO CCI.

Agenda Item No – 14: Vote of Thanks

15. The participating Heads of delegations/members offered their thanks to the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines (ICCIM) for the excellent arrangements made to hold 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.