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**United Nations Symposium
Mainstreaming Sector Policies into Integrated National
Sustainable Development Planning:
Enhancing Sustainable Tourism, Urbanization, Resource
Efficiency, Biodiversity and Environmental Protection**

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

14-16 October 2014

Provisional Programme

(advance draft as of 23 Sept 2014)

(several international speakers still to be confirmed)

**Co-organized by:
Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization (ICHTO)
and**

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

**in collaboration with
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Department of the Environment
of Islamic Republic of Iran
and United Nations Development Programme**

Provisional Programme

13 October 2014 – Arrival of international Participants - Registration

Day 1 14 October 2014 Tuesday

Opening session

- Welcome address by Mr. Rohani Movahed, Deputy for Tourism, ICHTO
- Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Soltanifar, Vice-President and Head of Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHTO)
- Remarks by Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations DESA, New York (confirmed)
- Remarks by Mr. Gary Lewis, Resident Representative, UNDP, Tehran, Iran (invited)

High-level Segment

Keynote Speaker: H.E. Dr. Jahangiri, First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Group photo

Tea/coffee break

Statements by Ministers:

Perspectives for international cooperation in sustainable tourism development

- Detailed programme of High-level segment to be announced -

Lunch break (**ICHTO** - Briefing of local media)

Technical programme of the United Nations Symposium

Introduction to the Technical Programme of the UN Symposium

Mr. Reza Salamat, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA, New York, and Mr. Ralph Wahnschafft, Independent Advisor on Sustainable Development Policies, Berlin, Germany (confirmed)

Session 1: Models for integrated planning of tourism for sustainable development

Co-moderators: Mr Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA, New York, and Mr. Soleiman-pour (confirmed)

Tourism development in Western Asia: trends, issues and UNWTO perspectives

Mr. Xu Jing, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations World Tourism Organization, Madrid, Spain (confirmed)

Urban renewal, redevelopment of old towns and conservation of cultural heritage: Experiences from Pondicherry, India

Mr. Ashok Panda, Co-convenor, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, INTACH, Pondicherry, India, (confirmed)

Models for integrated planning for sustainable tourism resorts in the Philippines

Mr. Warner Andrada, Office of Tourism Development Planning, Department of Tourism, Makati City, Metro Manila, The Philippines (confirmed)

Rural (re)development and cultural heritage conservation through sustainable tourism: Experiences from Japan

Mr. Alex A Kerr, Jr, Chiiori Trust, Kameoka-shi City, Japan (confirmed)

Q & A; and group discussion

Tea / coffee break

Sustainable tourism, community participation, and perspectives for rural development: Models and experiences from Indonesia (confirmed)

by Tri Mumpuni and Iskandar Kuntoadji, Co-founders and Managing Directors, People-centred business and economic initiative (IBEKA), Jakarta, Indonesia

Title of presentation (tbd) (?)

Mr. Zaghham (ICHTO)

Title of presentation (tbd) (?)

Mr. Zahed Ghaderi (ICHTO)

European Commission Programmes for promotion of sustainable tourism in small towns and rural areas: European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN)

Francesca Tudini, Head of Department, DG Enterprise Tourism Unit, European Commission and EC Tourism Staff (via video conference link, tbc)

Q & A; and group discussion

End of proceedings of day 1 Social and cultural events (optional)

Day 2 15 October 2014 Wednesday

Special presentation *Concepts, methods and examples of sustainable tourism lodges*
Mr. Hitesh Metha, HM design, Kenya
(Author of publication: Authentic Eco-lodges) (confirmed)

Session 2: Perspectives for regional cooperation in sustainable tourism development

Co-moderators: Senior Representative of MFA/ICHTO (tbc) and Mr Reza Salamat, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA, New York

Achievements and opportunities for regional cooperation on sustainable development of tourism in the ECO region

Representatives of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO Secretariat) (confirmed)

Presentation on “Silk Road” Project(s) / Regional cooperation initiatives

Presentation by representatives / experts from Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan or other participating Central Asian country

Models of bi-lateral intergovernmental cooperation in tourism (title tbc)

Presentation by Mr Alexander Radkov, Head, Federal Agency for Tourism, Russian Federation (or designated expert) (invited, tbc)

Special Presentation: *Compendium of Best Practice Profiles: Models for sustainable tourism*
Briefing and invitation to contribute Best Practice profiles to e-Publication
Ms Fen Wei, Consultant, World Bank (confirmed)

Tea/coffee break

Morning sessions in 3 parallel working groups

Parallel Promoting investments and public-private partnerships in tourism and hospitality

Session 3.1.: Co-moderators: Mr. Shirkavand, Senior Representative of MFA/ICHTO and Mr Ralph Wahnschafft, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development Policies, Berlin, Germany (**Working Group Session with interpretation**)

Public-private partnerships in the development of the hotel and tourism sectors in Turkey (provisional title)

Mr. Timur Bayindir, President, Turkish Hotels and Investors Association, Istanbul (invited, tbc)

Opportunities for investments in hotel, travel and tourism services in Iran

Mr. Ebrahim PourFaraj, President, Iranian Tour Operator Association (tbc)

Potentials and opportunities for hotel development and international cooperation in Iran

Mr. M. H. Barzin, Managing Director, Homa Hotels Group (or other establishment)

Experiences with sustainable hotel and tourism development in West Asia

Invited representative of participating hotel operator / company (tbi, tbc)

Title of presentation (tbc)

Mr. Zahedi (ICHTO)

Title of presentation (tbc)

Mr. Rezvani (ICHTO)

Q & A and Discussion of Working Group

Parallel Session 3.2: Policies and Strategies for integrated planning of tourism at national and local levels and conservation of cultural heritage

Co-moderators: Mr Mohamed Reza Salamat, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA, New York and Mr. Ashtarian

(Working Group Session – English only)

Management of tourism development in cultural and natural heritage sites in Cambodia

Mr. In Thoeun, Deputy Director, Ministry of Tourism, Phnom, Penh, Cambodia (confirmed)

Programmes for conservation of cultural heritage in Iran: Isfahan and Shiraz and/or Kandovan Village

Expert/Representative of National Commission of Iran for UNESCO (tbc)

Programmes for rehabilitation of old towns in Colombia: Re-creating tourist attractions

Director or Expert, Bogota (to be nominated by Ms. Sandra Howard Taylor, Vice Minister of Tourism), Bogota, Colombia (invited, tbc)

Programmes for conservation of cultural heritage in Ethiopia

Mr. Desalegn Abebaw, Director of research, Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (confirmed)

Q & A, and Working Group Discussion

Parallel Promoting resource efficiency and environmental protection in tourism:

Session 3.3: Co-moderators: Mr. Keykhah, and Representative of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (invited,tbc)
(Working Group Session – English only)

Challenges and opportunities for sustainable tourism development in developing countries: Promoting investments, employment and environmental protection in Morocco

Ms. Nada Roudies, Secretary-General, Ministry of Tourism, Rabat, Morocco, and Chair of Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism (GPST) (or designated representative) (invited, tbc)

Challenges and opportunities for sustainable tourism development in developing countries: New tourism planning and promotion policies in Madagascar

Ms. Chan Mane Stella Randrianina, Director for Sustainable Tourism, Ministry of Environment, Water, Forest and Tourism, Antananarivo, Madagascar (confirmed)

Measures for enhancing sustainability in tourism in Islamic Republic of Iran

Speaker / expert from Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, tbc (**ICHTO**)

Title of presentation

Mr. Makhdoum (**ICHTO**)

Title of presentation

Mr. Afshin Danekar (**ICHTO**)

Title of presentation

Dr. Jalal Valiolahi (**ICHTO**)

Q & A, and Working Group Discussion

Lunch break

Parallel International financial institution investments in tourism and hospitality

Session 4.1: Co-moderators: Representative of International Organization (tbi, tbc), and Mr. Khazaei
(Working Group Session with interpretation)

Supporting tourism and hospitality investments in developing countries: The role of the International Financial Institutions

Speaker / representative tbc [Ms Eneida Fernandes, World Bank Group (tbc), Washington D.C. (invited, tbc)

Financing investments in infrastructure and sustainable tourism development

Representative of Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (invited, tbc)

Promotion of investment in tourism and sustainable development

Representative to be designated by Mr. Thawatchai Arunyik, Governor, Tourism

Authority of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand (invited, tbc)

Q & A, and group discussion

Parallel Session 4.2 Training of human resources and capacity development for sustainable tourism

Session 4.2

Co-moderators: Director / Senior Representative, Parsian International Hotels and Parsian Hotel School, Tehran, Iran tbc) and Klaus Lengefeld, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Tourism Development Programmes GIZ, Germany (invited, tbc)
(Working Group Session – English only)

National strategies for tourism development in Iran and capacity development needs

Director/Senior Representative, Azadi International Tourism Organization, Tehran

Entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in the hospitality industry (tbc)

Expert/representative of Parsian International Hotels and Parsian Hotel School, Tehran, Iran (**ICHTO**)

Development of Halal Tourism Standards

Mr. Mehdi Fakheri, Director-General, Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center, Tehran, Iran (tbi, tbc) (**ICHTO**)

Title of presentation (tbc)

Ziaei (**ICHTO**)

Title of presentation (tbc)

Mr. Esmacil Ghaderi (**ICHTO**)

Title of presentation (tbc)

Ms. Afsaneh Ehsani (**ICHTO**)

Q & A, and group discussion

Parallel Session 4.3 National parks, conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable ecotourism

Session 4.3

Co-moderators: Mr. Bahmani and Mr Sang-In Kang, Senior Officer, Korea Environment Institute (KEI), Rep. of Korea (invited, tbc)
(Working Group Session – English only)

Integrated planning for sustainable ecotourism in Republic of Korea: Model projects

Mr Sang-In Kang, Senior Expert, Global Strategy Center, Korea Environment Institute, Seoul, Republic of Korea (invited, tbc)

National parks, biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism in Malaysia

Designated expert of Planning and International Affairs Division, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Putrajaya, Malaysia (or other nominated representative of Ministry) (invited, tbc)

National parks in Tanzania: Investments, operational costs, revenues from tourism and employment and income generation

Expert from Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, United Republic of Tanzania (invited, tbc)

Title of presentation (tbc)

Mr. Henrik Majnounian (ICHTO)

Title of presentation (tbc)

Mr. Esmaeil Kahrom (ICHTO)

Title of presentation (tbc)

Ms. Mina Esteghamat (ICHTO)

Q & A, and Working Group Discussion

Tea/coffee break

Session 5: Concluding plenary session: Perspectives for international cooperation in sustainable tourism for development

Co-moderators: Mr Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and Senior Expert / Representative of Iran

Resources for sustainable tourism planning in international development cooperation

Klaus Lengefeld, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Tourism Development Programmes, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Eschborn, Germany (invited, tbc)

Brief summary reports of co-moderators of parallel sessions

Session 3.1: Promoting investments and public-private partnerships in tourism and hospitality

Session 3.2: Policies and strategies for integrated planning of tourism at national and local levels and conservation of cultural heritage

Session 3.3: Promoting resource efficiency and environmental protection in tourism

Session 4.1: International financial institution investments in tourism and hospitality

Session 4.2: Training and capacity development for sustainable tourism

Session 4.3: National parks, conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable ecotourism

Q & A and group discussion

Summary of conclusions and recommendations

Mr Mohammad Reza Salamat, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA, New York, and Mr Ralph Wahnschafft, Independent Advisor on Sustainable Development Policies, Berlin, Germany

Concluding remarks

End of proceedings of day 2 Social and cultural events (optional)

Day 3 16 October 2014 Thursday

Programme of site visits and bi-lateral consultations

Option A Site Visit programme (Tehran)

Option B Site Visit programme (Tehran)

17 October 2014 Friday – Return travel of international participants

Legend / Notes:

Schedule: Proposed start of proceeding: 9:00 am
Proposed lunch time break: 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Proposed end of proceeding: 5:30 or 6:00 pm

Duration: welcome addresses – max 10 minutes
keynote statements – max 20 minutes
general technical presentations – max 15 minutes

Rotating session co-chairs (typically one expert from Iran and one visiting experts)

Languages: English or Farsi (simultaneous interpretation to be provided by host during all plenary sessions and during sessions 3.1 and 4.1.)