

RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING REGIONAL TOURISM AND UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Draft Resolution Sponsored by Thailand

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, for the 30th Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme *Parliaments and the Post-COVID-19 Sustainable Development*:

Recalling the 11th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting (TMM) in Bangkok, Thailand, on 19th August 2022 which was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Kingdom of Thailand, whose statement reflects the achievements, commitment and views of all APEC members throughout the meeting;

Recognizing that the meeting was held under the theme of APEC 2022 “Open. Connect. Balance.” as Thailand advances its priorities to develop the region through an inclusive and sustainable growth, to implement the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action, while driving APEC towards a sustainable and balanced post-COVID-19 era through the concept of Bio-Circular-Green Economy, also known as the BCG Economy Model. The meeting strongly supported inclusiveness and sustainability. At the top of the APEC 2022 agenda are our region’s response to COVID-19 and the opportunity to build a better and more resilient future. The meeting gave prominence to the implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blue Print 2015-2025, which outlines “People-to-people Connectivity” and “reduce uncertainties relating to tourism”. Significant new uncertainties and challenges have heightened the need to harness APEC cooperation and advance work on sustainable tourism, to achieve the Putrajaya vision of an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040;

Acknowledging the continuing willingness to convene inclusive dialogues amongst sustainability champions, and to reflect on the pathways and progress towards rebuilding a stronger and more resilient tourism sector. Our dialogue canvasses the existing challenges that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Together we will work to rebuild and rethink tourism for the future; and

Emphasizing that transformative change towards regenerative pathways requires more than a simple scaling-up of sustainability initiatives. An agreed end state of this regenerative process is that tourism must support positive change and sustainable economic development and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Recommend** APPF Member Parliaments to encourage the regenerative tourism framework and its congruence with Thailand’s BCG model as basis to establish policy recommendations focusing on priorities and implications through more place-based and meaningful forms of better tourism to enhance the connectivity of the entire tourism eco-system;
2. **Urge** APPF Member Parliaments to concur that the next phase of tourism requires an approach that is firmly anchored “at place”. Thus, policies for place-based tourism that support inclusivity and equity need to uphold the values of a destination, the existing frameworks and governance, the priorities of local communities, and the values that they uphold;

3. **Recommend** APPF Member Parliaments to celebrate and conserve the unique biodiversity of each place in order to create circular and green economies. This circular model is based on three core principles: 1) reduce and eliminate waste and pollution, 2) keep products and materials in use, and 3) regenerate natural systems. The effort is to advance local-based creativity, technology, and innovation to transform local heritages into a value-based and innovation-driven economy;
 4. **Recommend** APPF Member Parliaments to respect the rich cultural diversity and knowledge of local communities, empower them to seize the economic opportunities that tourism can provide, promote their entrepreneurship, strengthen their business skills and capacities in communities in order to ensure sustainable tourism;
 5. **Recommend** APPF Member Parliaments to commit to promoting safe, accessible, and inclusive tourism for all in order to ensure that our tourist destinations, facilities, products, and services are increasingly accessible to everyone, regardless of gender, disabilities or age;
 6. **Encourage** APPF Member Parliaments to manage the next phase of tourism so that it can enhance the sustainable well-being of the local community by ensuring that metrics or indicators of success are reframed around tourism's capacity to regenerate well-being;
 7. **Recognize** the significance of a roadmap for transitioning to the desired future by altering operations in response to changing business conditions and new opportunities; and
 8. **Request** APPF Member Parliaments to encourage the Asia-Pacific Region to strengthen exchanges and cooperation among tourism enterprises and personnel on sustainability, inclusiveness, increased digitalisation, and ongoing investment in tourism.
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