

7TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

“YOUTH AND TOURISM”

DECLARATION

1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 We, the participants of the 7th Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD) convened in Melaka from 25-27 June 2007 an annual programme organised by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), which brings together young people and youth leaders from around the world to discuss pertinent and topical issues.
- 1.2 The theme selected for MIYD 2007 is Youth and Tourism. This theme was selected in the realisation that tourism has a significant role to play in terms of creating employment for youth, as well as providing a vocation and a form of recreation. Thus vast opportunities are available to young people in the tourism industry as the fastest-growing business sector in the world. The 7th MIYD has therefore considered the opportunities available for the youth in the tourism sector, and outlined strategies to encourage and enable youth to benefit from the lucrative sector.
- 1.3 The 7th MIYD has therefore considered the opportunities available for youth in the tourism sector, and outlined strategies to encourage and enable youth to benefit from the lucrative sector.
- 1.4 After thorough deliberations through plenary sessions, workshops and side events we, the participants at the MIYD on Youth and Tourism have put together this document with the following recommendations that we strongly feel ought to be implemented to enable youth to effectively participate and benefit from the tourism industry.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Nature Based Tourism

- 2.1.1 Develop youth policies and laws to enhance youth participation in the tourism sector
- 2.1.2 Create an enabling environment for youth participation in the tourism sector
- 2.1.3 Establish credit schemes to provide soft loans for youth who are already in the industry and upcoming tourism industry players.

2.2 Cultural tourism

- 2.2.1 Youth are encouraged to focus more on cultural authenticity and sustainability more than profit making.
- 2.2.2 Youth should be encouraged to get formal or informal education before venturing in to this field
- 2.2.3 Industry captains should not overshadow and kill upcoming and potential youth in tourism industry players
- 2.2.4 Renowned players in the tourism industry should play a social responsibility in the form of mentorship to upcoming companies.

2.3 Educational tourism

- 2.3.1 Need to bridge the language barriers
- 2.3.2 Advocate for political stability
- 2.3.3 Flexible immigration rules and regulations
- 2.3.4 Need to develop youth friendly packages

2.4 M.I.C.E. Tourism

- 2.4.1 Provide experts to co-ordinate mice tourism skills and knowledge
- 2.4.2 Upgrade facilities to mice tourism with the latest technology in order to cater for all participants in line with globalization
- 2.4.3 Give incentives to youth as a way of motivating them to penetrate them MICE Tourism
- 2.4.4 Lack of infrastructural facilities and capacities to explore in the tourism industry.

2.5 Health tourism

- 2.5.1 Indigenous remedies overshadowed by western ways of healing.
- 2.5.2 Youth ought to be encouraged to learn the skills from their elders who are knowledgeable on the traditional remedies.
- 2.5.3 There is need for further research into traditional remedies.
- 2.5.4 Need for aggressive marketing of health tourism.

2.6 Non traditional tourism

- 2.6.1 Governments, NGOs and the private sector ought to be convinced of the integrity of young people intentions.
- 2.6.2 Environment not conducive for Youth in tourism due to lack of trust and marginalisation.

2.7 Honeymooners and Family

- 2.7.1 Make information on franchise deals readily available
- 2.7.2 Flexible and affordable packages for honeymooners.
- 2.7.3 Encouragement of holiday homes since they create a home way from home experiences.

3 GENERAL COMMENTS

- 3.1 Advocating and lobbying for the elimination of bureaucratic red tape and systems at all levels of development which can hinder exploration of youth in the tourism sector.
- 3.2 Ensure youth participation is actively sought and maximised within the tourism industry.
- 3.3 Need to develop the capacities of youth to start and run viable tourism ventures with the assistance of governments and NGO's and the private sector.
- 3.4 Through the tourism sector youth can find employment and recreation thus incorporating positive value in youth.
- 3.5 Young people with their boundless enthusiasm and vibrancy are the life blood of the tourism sector.
- 3.6 Enhance development capabilities through dialogues and trainings which will motivate, build confidence and encourage risk taking amongst the youth.
- 3.7 Encourage global peace and youth friendly policies to be incorporated into the UNWTO plan of action for sustainable tourism.
- 3.8 Condemn the use of international media as a means of false propaganda to deter tourists from visiting nations that are unfairly cast as unsafe, unstable or not recommended for tourism
- 3.9 Call for stern action to curb child sexual abuse and human trafficking
- 3.10 Encourage tourism between developing nations in the spirit of south-south cooperation
- 3.11 Call for the enforcement of the right of rebuttal of every state to negative publicity, especially that which is not factual
- 3.12 Condemn occupation, wars, destruction of infrastructure and other forms of aggression by the Super Powers, designed to disturb peace and stability of weaker nations

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 We the participants of the 7th MIYD have realised the major role that tourism plays in the lives of young people, hence the need to create youth forums for lobbying and advocating at all levels of development.