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ON

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM: OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH

Panel III: Capacity Building and Community Development

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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- The global economic impact of tourism as a source of income is disproportionately felt by women and youths as a result of discrimination and stereotype.
- The inability of women and youths in tourism to fully enjoy the benefits of global tourism is compounded by ignorance and poverty.
- In order to overturn the situation as it currently stands there is need to address the capacity building policies and structures available.

INTRODUCTION CONTN'D

- Women tend to be concentrated in the lowest paid and lowest status jobs in tourism
- Some of the African governments commitment to issues of women are contained in : African Charter on Human and Peoples Right (ACHPR), Women's Right Protocol of 2003, New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) 2001, ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, 2001. All these are also linked with other International Instruments

MAIN FEATURES OF CAPACITY BUILDING IN TOURISM THAT CAN BENEFIT WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

- Education : Formal and informal is needed to address ignorance on the part of women and young people.

Skill Acquisition : Trainings to acquire skill for economic empowerment.

- Life skills Acquisition for survival in the cultural terrain.
- Building the self esteem of women and youths
- Skills for self preservation to face the challenge of stereotype as sex objects of tourism
- Access to Information: From travel industries, embassies, localities and ICT
- Building community knowledge base, vigilance and protection of women and youths

WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACQUIRING SKILLS TO HARNESS THEIR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS THROUGH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

- Women in the tourism industry are better utilised when their skills are sharpened leading to better income, instead of being used as prostitutes, waiters, cleaners and menial jobs participants in tourism.
- It leads to increase in skill acquisition in managing resources.
- Preservation: Ways of preserving fragile heritage assets have to be learnt by women and young men.
- Restoration: It leads to creation of exact working replicas
- It also leads to sustenance of cultural heritage

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Skills development initiatives for women and young people to access opportunities in tourism should be a continuous exercise.
- The following areas of our cultural heritage are currently dominated by women and young persons: Traditional fabrics and Batiks (adire),Traditional leather and Rafia crafts.
- There is need to redress gender imbalance in the involvement of women in ethnographical objects of arts , wood carvings as well as modern paintings.
- Experts need to promote equality and challenge stereotypes which has relegated women to the background
- Encouragement of support for women and young people by ensuring that provisions are made in the budget for capacity building.
- Systematic and conscious integration of erstwhile marginalised women and vulnerable groups as beneficiaries of capacity building programme through policies that will protect the women's welfare,

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

- "It is the Vocation and practice of managing cultural heritage"

- "It is concerned with the identification, interpretation, maintenance and preservation of significant cultural sites and physical heritage assets"
- Cultural heritage belongs to the people and as such heritage like our music, crafts, drama, food as well as sites must be preserved and converted into tourism activity that will be mutually benefiting to both the owners and the tourists.

USEFULNESS OF CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS TO TOURISM SECTOR

- It brings about value for money spent by tourists
- There is quality control in the tourism sector
- Equal training brings about equal opportunity for men and women
- It brings about enhanced productivity and sustainable development
- It reduces the "sexual division of Labour" which keeps women subordinate to men.
- Women and young men are able to perform decent jobs as against menial works which hitherto they were known to be performing.

CONCLUSION

- Notwithstanding the domination of large number of women and young persons in tourism, more effort needs to be done in building the capacity of women and young persons.
- There is need for equal work and equal pay.
- Capacity building for women and young persons reduces the recycling of Poverty and closes the gender gaps in Tourism.
- The commitment of UNWTO and UN towards enhancing the positive impact of Tourism Development on women's lives most especially through their increased economic and social participation is in line with MDG (No. 3) “Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”

WOCON'S WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IN EBONYI STATE

WITH SUPPORT FROM AWDF

WOCON AT PHILLIPINES TO PROMOTE NIGERIA ARTS AND CULTURE

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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