



CAP/CSA/26/6\_Connectivity

**UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC  
UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA  
Twenty-sixth Joint Meeting  
Legazpi, Philippines  
18 May 2014**

**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda**

**THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON AIR CONNECTIVITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General submits to the Joint Meeting of the two Commissions a concept note to facilitate the thematic discussion under this agenda item.

## Thematic discussion on air connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

1. It is recalled that the UNWTO policy priorities set forth in the current programme of work focus on travel facilitation, taxation and connectivity, as endorsed by the 20th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/617(XX).
2. It is recalled that the General Debate of the 20th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly held in Victoria Falls in August 2013, has highlighted the close link between tourism and air transport, yet these two interlinked sectors are often dissociated in their policy formulation.
3. It is further recalled that when addressing the ICAO Worldwide Air Transport Conference (2013) and the UNWTO/WTM Ministerial Summit (2013), the Secretary-General of UNWTO elaborated on the significant role of aviation and tourism in driving economic growth and sustainable development, calling for closer coordination between tourism and air transport policies.
4. It is pertinent to mention that in 2013, UNWTO, together with PATA and TPO, carried out a regional study on “Air Connectivity and its Impact on Tourism in Asia and the Pacific”, outlining the ensuing objectives:
  - Produce a comprehensive review of how air transport has contributed to the tourism development in the Asia and Pacific region and vice versa.
  - Analyze the key trends and major challenges and opportunities associated with tourism and air transport.
  - Highlight best practice cases in terms of harmonized policies, strategies and marketing programs between the tourism and aviation sectors at national, regional and city levels and
  - Formulate practical guidelines for policy makers and other stakeholders to foster sustainable development in both the tourism and air transport sectors

#### The Discussion

1. In view of the foregoing background, a 2-hour thematic discussion is designed under Agenda Item 6 of the 26th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia (CSA).
2. The thematic discussion will focus on air connectivity and its impact on the tourism sector in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. The debate will start with a 20-minute technical presentation outlining the salient features of the UNWTO/PATA/TPO regional study on “Air Connectivity and its Impact on Tourism in Asia and the Pacific”. The presentation will also serve to set the scene for the subject matter.

4. After the technical presentation, a senior anchor from CNN TASK will moderate and lead the remaining discussion. The moderator will invite participating countries and delegates to make brief interventions. The interventions could, *inter alia*, revolve around one of the following sub-topics:

- Air connectivity and economic regulation
- The role of airports and regional hubs for tourism development
- Security and visa facilitation
- Consumer protection and visitor satisfaction
- Impact of low cost airlines
- Policy on open sky
- Taxation and levies
- The role of aviation within the Green Economy and its impact on tourism
- Common positions by transport and tourism such as economic analysis, security and safety, taxation and consumer protection
- An integrated collective vision for aviation and tourism