Regional Conference on the Empowerment of Women in Tourism in Asia and the Pacific
Bali International Convention Centre of The Westin Resort Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia
2-4 May 2024

Preliminary Programme

Thursday, 2 May 2023

08:00 – 09:00  Registration

09:00 – 10:00  Opening Ceremony

Cultural Performance

Opening Remarks
Mr. Irjen Mahendra Jaya, Acting Governor of Bali
H.E. Mr. Sandiaga Uno, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia
H.E. Ms. Maria Esperanza Christina Garcia Frasco, Secretary of Department of Tourism, Philippines; Chairperson of the UN Tourism Commission for East Asia and the Pacific
Mr. Harry Hwang, Director of the Regional Department for Asia and the Pacific, UN Tourism

Group Photo

10:00 – 10:30  Networking break

10:30 – 12:00  Women Ministers’ Roundtable Discussion
Women in Tourism Industry Leadership: Highlighting the achievements and acknowledging the challenges of women leaders in the tourism sector

Speakers:
H.E. Ms. Phoneman Soukhathammavong, Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao People’s Democratic Republic
H.E. Ms. Maria Esperanza Christina Garcia Frasco, Secretary of Department of Tourism, Philippines; Chairperson of the UN Tourism Commission for East Asia and the Pacific
H.E. Ms. Nabeela Farida Tunis, Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs of the Republic, Sierra Leone
Ms. Angela Tanoesoedibjo, Vice Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia
Ms. Mariyam Nasheetha Nasheed, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Maldives

Moderated by:

Ms. Valerina Daniel, National News Anchor, TVRI, Indonesia

12:00 – 14:00  Networking Lunch

14:00 – 14:15  Setting the Scene
Regional Overview of the Empowerment of Women in Tourism

Dr. Prachi Thakur, Academic at Sunway University and Technical Coordinator of the Regional Conference on the Empowerment of Women in Tourism in Asia and the Pacific for UN Tourism

14:15 – 15:45  Panel Discussion 1
Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism: Discussing women’s roles in promoting sustainable tourism

Speakers:

Ms. Maria Helena De Senna Fernandes, Director, Macao Government Tourism Office, Macao, China

Ms. Bayasgalan Saranjav, Secretary-General, Mongolia National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mongolia

Ms. Janet DeNeefe, Founder and Director of Ubud Food Festival and Ubud Writers & Readers Festival, Indonesia

Dr. Nisha Abu Bakar, Co-founder, World Women Tourism, Singapore

Ms. Shivya Nath, Founder, Climate Conscious Travel, India

Moderated by:

Mr. Ben Owen, Senior Project Specialist, Ethics Culture and Social Responsibility Department, UN Tourism

15:45 – 16:15  Networking Break

16:15 – 17:45  Panel Discussion 2
From the classroom to the boardroom: Examining how education and training impact women’s participation in the tourism sector

Speakers:

Dr. Catheryn Khoo, Professor of Tourism, Torrens University, Australia

Ms. Kumi Kato, Professor, Faculty of Tourism/Graduate School of Tourism, Wakayama University, Japan

Ms. Sonia Hong, Director, Museum Wave, Republic of Korea
Dr. Hang Le, Vice Provost, Duy Tan University, Vietnam

Dr. Lai Mun Yee, Lecturer at Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Mr. Marcel Leijzer, Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation and Silk Road Department, UN Tourism

Moderated by:

Dr. Prachi Thakur, Academic at Sunway University and Technical Coordinator of the Regional Conference on Women’s Empowerment in Tourism in Asia and the Pacific for UN Tourism

19:00 – 21:30 Networking dinner and cultural performances

Friday, 3 May 2024

09:00 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 11:30 Panel Discussion 3
Safety and Accessibility: Addressing concerns related to safety and creating more accessible travel opportunities for women

Speakers:

Ms. Christine Brew, Technical Coordinator, Regional Department for Asia & the Pacific, UN Tourism

Dr. Elaine Yang, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Tourism, Sport and Hotel Management at Griffith University, Australia

Ms. Neha Arora, Founder, Planet Abled, India

Dr. Putu Diah Sastri Pitanatri, Lecturer Bali Tourism Polytechnic, Indonesia

Ms. Rashmi Chadha, Founder, Wovoyage, India

Ms. Seo-yoon Hong, Founder, Tourism for All, Republic of Korea

Moderated by:

Ms. Nia Niscaya, Expert on Tourism and Creative Economy

11:30 – 12:00 Closing Ceremony

Conclusions and recommendations by Dr. Prachi Thakur, Academic at Sunway University and Technical Coordinator of the Regional Conference on Women’s Empowerment in Tourism in Asia and the Pacific for UN Tourism

Closing remarks by Mr. Irjen Mahendra Jaya, Acting Governor of Bali

Closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Sandiaga Uno, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia

Closing remarks by Mr. Harry Hwang, Director of the Regional Department for Asia
12:00 – 14:00  Networking Lunch

14:00 – 16:00  Green Action: Carbon Footprint Offsetting

Saturday, 4 May 2024

08:00 – 12:00  Interactive Cultural and Natural Tour