

Panel discussion on poverty reduction through tourism

Note for the panellists

The *Panel discussion on Poverty Reduction through Tourism* will be held on Wednesday, 24 November in Room II of the ILO building, Geneva, and will begin at 14:00. It forms part of the *Global Dialogue Forum on New Developments and Challenges in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector and their Impact on Employment, Human Resources Development and Industrial Relations*, 23-24 November 2010. It takes place in the context of the Global South-South Development Expo 2010, hosted by the ILO 22-26 November 2010.

The purpose of the panel discussion is to raise awareness about the role of hotels and tourism in poverty alleviation activities and to share experiences among people attending the Forum. The ILO's Decent Work Agenda directly relates to poverty reduction through an integrated approach that has four key elements: rights that enable the empowerment of men and women to escape poverty, employment that is the principal route out of poverty, social protection that safeguards people against poverty, dialogue, and employers' and workers' organizations that participate in shaping government policy .

This panel will focus on strengthening decent work in the hotels, catering and tourism sector as one of the essential elements to be included in comprehensive poverty alleviation strategies. An integrated approach based on real market opportunities will be emphasized ensuring linkages between tourism and related sectors (such as agriculture, construction, fishing, food processing, furniture, manufacturing, transport, utilities and other services).

Reduction of poverty through tourism should be addressed in conjunction with the role of the south-south collaboration, which has become a significant vehicle to strengthen countries' regional and national development.¹ Your intervention may include examples of south-south cooperation and the experiences and successes that your country has achieved in providing income and livelihood security through tourism for poor and vulnerable populations that could be seen as good practices and ideas for other countries to consider when addressing comparable challenges and concerns.

The panel will be moderated by Ms. Dho Young-shim (UNWTO ST-EP Foundation).

Interventions will be made by:

- Mohamed Ba Ould NE, Directeur Ministère du commerce de l'artisanat et du tourisme, Mauritanie
- Neb Samouth, Deputy Director-General Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia
- Ron Oswald, General Secretary, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF)
- Ghassan Aidi, President International Hotel&Restaurant Association (IHRA)
- George Dragnich, Executive Director, ILO

Each intervention should last no more than five minutes, in order to allow a round of discussion following the final presentation. For this reason, PowerPoint presentations should be avoided.

¹ See also: Global South-South Development Expo 2010,
http://www.southsouthexpo.org/uploads/AideMem2010_EngDraft7-6-10.pdf.

For your information, we are enclosing the Issues paper entitled “Developments and challenges in the hospitality and tourism sector” (GDFHTS/2010), which was prepared by the Office as a basis for the forum's discussion, as well as the tentative timetable of the Global Dialogue Forum. For further information on the work of the Sectoral Activities Department in the Hotels, Catering and Tourism Sector please see: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/sectors/tourism.htm> and for more information on the Forum, please see:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/techmeet/gdfhts10/index.htm>.

Contact address for more information

Mr. Wolfgang Weinz
Hotels, Catering and Tourism Specialist
Sectoral Activities Department
International Labour Office (ILO)
4, route des Morillons
CH-1211 GENEVA 22, Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 799 6585, Fax +41 22 799 7046

E-mail: weinz@ilo.org or sector@ilo.org