

Kuala Lumpur - Lima Declaration on Tourism in Times of Climate Change

Preamble

The Kuala Lumpur - Lima Declaration on Tourism in Times of Climate Change is developed on the declaration that was first drafted by the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) during the APAY Conference on Climate Change which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 24 – 26 October 2014.

The Declaration was presented at the Tourism in Times of Climate Change Conference which was held in Lima, Peru, from 3 – 4 December 2014, in conjunction with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties 20 (COP20). The Declaration was revised and agreed on 4 December 2014.

The Tourism in Times of Climate Change Conference brought together representatives from 13 countries of 5 continents. The Conference highlighted the current state of tourism and climate change debate. Topics discussed included a variety of insights from Asia, Africa, Europe and Americas as well as opportunities on combating climate change.

Lesson learnt

- During the Conference we learnt that climate change is attributed directly or indirectly to human activities that alter the composition of the atmosphere due to accumulation of greenhouse gases. Climate change leads to significant rises in sea level and more extreme weather (including rainfall variability, frequency and associated intensity of storms and floods etc.) resulting in migration and conflict for resources. Climate change also brings negative impacts on health, ecology, environment, economy and culture.
- It is unjust that people, who suffer the most from the effects of climate change, even more so in the future, have contributed least to climate change.
- We understood the scale and urgency of the problem. Therefore, we encourage the reduction of carbon emissions in tourism, raise awareness of climate issues and develop organisational capacity to combat climate change.
- We heard and learnt that Mitigation and Adaptation processes have to be enhanced. We also learnt how necessary Loss and Damage and Climate Finance mechanisms are to the people and countries that are affected.
- We heard real-life stories of farmers and indigenous people in the Andes and Patagonia, victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and climate-migrants in the Pacific region.
- We heard and learnt that tourism is both a victim and an offender of climate change. We also learnt that bunker fuel currently used by ships and cruise liners, as well as air travel are extremely polluting. We also heard that most air travel is caused by holiday activities.
- We heard and learnt that carbon footprint of tourism is linked to social and economic activities e.g. extraction industries, land rights and human rights conflicts.

Vision

Responsible and sustainable tourism including spaces for learning and exchange of experience is developed and enhanced in all local, regional, national and international levels.

Call for Action

We hereby urge the participants of the Conference to...

1. ...identify and strengthen national and international networks to promote responsible and sustainable tourism. The representatives, who participated in this event agreed to network, investigate and implement actions at local, regional, national and international levels on the topics of tourism and climate change.
2. ...propose pre- and regular environmental and social impact assessments of touristic developments with the participation of local communities.
3. ...strengthen capabilities of communities including local control mechanisms to achieve responsible tourism.
4. ...create awareness and educate consumers about responsible tourism.
5. ...promote renewable energy projects which do not deepen negative effects on the environment and population e.g. environmentally responsible practices and regenerative projects; and increase the number of these projects over time.
6. ...apply pressure on governments to transform their economic and political models and structures, in order to guarantee the protection of the environment, achieve responsible and sustainable tourism, and improve quality of life.
7. ...apply pressure on private tourism sectors to respect and reciprocate the good will of local communities.

All the above actions have to be done in participatory processes respecting human rights and cultures.

Climate change is a global challenge. We urge international community to negotiate an ambitious and binding agreement to be signed in COP 21 in Paris in 2015.

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