



PRESS RELEASE

APRIL MEETING MAKES PROGRESS

APRIL 26, 2010

The recent April meeting of the South-East Asian Tourism Organisation (SEATO) saw positive progress towards its goals and objectives according to the body's Secretariat Director, Mr Robert Johnston.

"We have finalized a number of important administrative matters now including the creation of SEATO's 'virtual office' as well as made great progress on our strategic direction including the approval of an education and training program for the organisation," Mr Johnston said.

The meeting was held on from Monday 18 January through to Wednesday January 20, 2010 in Kuala Lumpur. Delegates from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia attended with observers from Tibet, Laos and the Philippines. It was followed by the first meeting of the Board of Directors.

"We had over 60 delegates from over 100 organisations at the meeting and that is a very impressive start," Mr Johnston said.

"What we have started a planned program so that we can now seek to look for new, innovative and practical ways to develop a variety of tourism opportunities, expand existing products, use new technologies and involve as yet untried communities in the industry, he said.

"Member organisations have already identified a number of projects which offer the organisation the potential to move forward with our work. We have already earmarked projects in Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand to receive project funding and expert support as they develop new initiatives in tourism," Mr Johnston said.

"What came out of the two days of discussion and cooperation between the members were practical ideas to aid the development and growth of the SEATO organization," Mr Johnston said.

"I think it is safe to say that the organization has made considerable progress in the short time we have been operational and we are going to see it making a valuable contribution to the industry in the region," he said.

Ends

For further information contact Mr Robert Johnston, SEATO Secretariat Director on Robert.johnston@seato.org

