



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **JAKARTA MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS**

**JUNE 20, 2010**

The meeting of the Board and Advisors of the South-East Asian Tourism Organisation (SEATO) held in Jakarta in June was a great success the organisation's Secretariat Director, Mr Robert Johnston said.

"We had meaningful meetings not only with the Indonesian Government but we also caught up with a number of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) who had signified an interest in opening discussions with us," Mr Johnston said.

"The concept of bringing the benefits of tourism out of the hands of large organisations and into the local villages and communities of Indonesia certainly struck a chord with these groups. Tourism is such an important industry in this country that the relevant authorities become very interested in initiatives that will broaden the benefits," Mr Johnston said.

Apart from meetings with the Indonesian Government and local industry members, the Board met to work on the organisation's first management and development plan which will be the springboard for organisational growth and development in the coming years.

"Our strategy is not to dictate to organisations but rather to talk and listen and to use the enormous combined expertise of our Management Board and Advisors to develop solutions which take into consideration the special needs of each of the project participants," Mr Johnston said.

There were some very exciting ideas presented to the Board while they were in Jakarta and the Board decided that they would look at more detailed proposals at its next meeting in September when a better idea of operational budgets and support initiatives will be in place.

"We need to be moving forward at a positive rate and we are mindful that many organisations and regions are anxious for us to work with them to develop projects that address their individual needs," he said.

**Ends**

For further information contact Mr Robert Johnston, SEATO Secretariat Director on [Robert.johnston@seato.org](mailto:Robert.johnston@seato.org)