

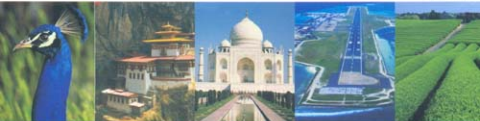


SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry

# Joint Communique on SAARC Tourism Cooperation



July 29, 2005  
Colombo



## SAARC TOURISM MINISTERS MEET

Jointly Organized by  
SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI)  
and Federation of Chambers of Commerce  
& Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCI)

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION





## JOINT COMMUNIQUE

SAARC Tourism Minister's Meeting was held in Colombo jointly organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Sri Lanka and the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Hon. Anura Bandaranaike, Minister of Tourism and Minister of Industry & Investment Promotion, Sri Lanka inaugurated the Tourism Meet.

We, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Secretary Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Minister of Tourism of the Republic of India, the Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation of Republic of Maldives, the Minister of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation of the Kingdom of Nepal, the Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Minister of Tourism of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka gathered in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 29 July 2005 for SAARC Tourism Minister's Meeting convened by the Ministry of Tourism, Sri Lanka and the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

*Reaffirming* our confidence in the meeting of twelfth SAARC Summit held in Islamabad in January 2004;

*Convinced* of the laudable objective of enhancing Tourism into SAARC Region and within SAARC Region;

*Convinced* that existing easy geographical access to all our countries open tremendous opportunities for tourism;

*Recognizing* that the current trends of increasing package tours for several destinations and intra regional travel could be taken into advantage of the SAARC region;

*Affirming* that public and private sector partnership is essential for the development of tourism as envisaged;

*Resolving* to forge ahead with strategies, with a proactive joint campaign to promote inter region and intra region tourism beneficial to all the countries in the SAARC region thus bringing in economic, social and cultural dividends to the people in the region.

## DO HERE BY

*Recognize* that the future development of tourism for the region largely depends upon the level of cooperation in transport sectors viz, Air, Sea and Land;

*Note* that simplification of immigration procedures and other frontier formalities will enormously facilitate the travelers into the region and within;

*Agree* to use the SAARC mechanisms for further development of tourism as envisaged.

*Agree* to received the maximum benefits from the areas of Culture and heritage, Eco and adventure tourism and other tourism products in a sustainable manner;

*Agree* to work on mechanisms to reduce frontier formalities, introduce special packages, and improve air accessibility;

*Agree* to work on further mechanisms to create awareness and promote the region to the world market;

*Agree* to work on further mechanisms to create awareness, and promote the region to travelers within the region;

*Agree* to work on activities leading to awareness including inviting media personnel, travel agents and tour operators, exchange of tourism experts etc;

*Agree* to adhere to follow best practices on tourism related activities;

*Agree* to strengthen the initiative taken to have joint working groups to implement plan of action on a clear direction;

**Hon. Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin**  
State Minister for Civil Aviation  
& Tourism, People's Republic of Bangladesh

**H E Dashi Karma Dorji**  
Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry & Tourism  
Kingdom of Bhutan

**Hon. Smt. Renuka Choudhury**  
Minister of Tourism Republic of India

**Hon. Dr. Mahamood Shaugie**  
Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation Republic of Maldives

**Hon. Buddhi Raj Bajracharya**  
Minister of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation,  
Kingdom of Nepal

**Brigadier (Retd) Hon. Hashim Khan**  
Managing Director/Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation,  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**Hon. Anura Bandaranaike**  
Minister of Tourism, Industry & Investment Promotion,  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

**Macky Hashim**  
President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry

We express our deep gratitude and appreciation to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the generous hospitality accorded and the excellent arrangements made to have the SAARC Tourism meeting a success.



SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Permanent Headquarters:

House No. 5, Street No. 59, F-6/4, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Tel: 2281399-4 Fax: 32-01-2281399

E-mail: info@saarcchamber.com Website: www.saarcchamber.com