

- Report on Challenges, Barriers and Capacities of Tourism Cooperation

Tourism is very functional tool to enable the D-8 member countries citizens to know each other better, to upgrade existing cultural and historical relations. Therefore, cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experience in tourism sector between D-8 countries is endorsed opponent on principle.

Tourism shall be used as a sound planning and implementation tool for efforts dedicated to elimination of regional inequalities, alleviation of poverty and development of employment opportunities, also during the coming years. At this end, assurance shall be provided for coherence across investments to be made by various entities. To ensure development of tourism activities both at national and regional levels is an objective that is attainable only when top priority regions and areas are determined according to not only the sector specific plans worked out by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism but also the macro policies evolved and institutionalised in national development schemes prepared by the State Planning Organization and the required sets of infrastructure projects appertaining to these areas are included in the investment schedules of relevant entities and organizations.

The novel planning approach for Tourism Centres and Cultural and Tourism Conservation and Development Areas mainly adopts a flexible and strategic planning concept, which is built upon actions rather than strict land use decisions and targets an integrated and dynamic structure. In these areas, the project sites are further divided into subzones, so that planning takes place and the investors are expected to set up individual projects of their own. Cultural and Tourism Conservation and Development Zoning is not simply a border lining process, but is meant to involve such other procedural flows as planning and segmentation of land within the so set boundaries, true to a predefined set of targets and requirements.

The strategies are;

- The current lack of a physical planning practice will be overcome by means of various regulatory arrangements to set out and implement coordination
- An integrated approach shall be adopted and maintained for planning efforts in areas with high local tourism potential, instead of a problem-focused conception of planning.
- The fragmented and plot based planning practice shall be discontinued and tourism cities with remarkable global competitive power should be established.
- Technical personnel support will be provided for entities and organizations bearing the authority to approve plans at local level and thus the development of tourism shall be directed.
- Provisions shall be made for establishment of participative mechanisms such as Local Agenda No. 21, with the local council's becoming functional in a given neighborhood. Promising areas where organized tourism activities can easily be developed shall be of preference when selecting tourism development areas in any given locality, while in the mean time a systematic structuring is assured through solution proposals for tenancy, infrastructure and environmental concerns.

- **Views on Unified Format for Establishing Data Bank for investment in Tourism**
The views about this issue can be pointed out in case the "Unified Format" is delivered.

- **Suggestions for Joint Tourism Investment Company**
Tourism Investment Company should be established by consideration private sector demands and the company should be in contact with member countries Local Investor Associations, such as TURSAB (Association of Turkish Travel Agencies), TUROB (Touristic Hotels and Investors Association) in Turkey.

- **Relevant National Rules and Regulations Governing Investment in Tourism**
In Turkey, the foreign investors have rights to invest due to the existing legislation, and the laws such as "Tourism Incentive Law, Regulations Regarding Public Immovables Allocation to Tourism Investments, Direct Foreign Investment Law" and others.

- **Views on Tourism Action Plan Based on D-8 Road Map**
The issues mentioned in the Roadmap Draft Text are mainly considered as coherent but these are thought to be more suitable to reach success in Tourism Works among the D-8 countries;

- The "Easing Visa Agreement" point should be more clarified and detailed such as, which travel purposes the visa facilitation should be easier or which travel purposes shouldn't need visa among the D-8 countries.

- The parts "Partnership with Customs stakeholders and the Trading Community" should include the tourism issue to manage the local residents and national benefits while attracting the national-international entrepreneurs. Works on "Public Security and Protection of the Society" issue should clarify or set a framework how to deal with joint projects to ensure the tourist safety both in "crime" and "health" matters.

- However the subjects in IX. Tourism phase are basically appreciated since the D-8 countries don't form a geographical zone and the countries are far away physically, it would be almost impossible to market the D-8 as a joint tourism destination. Besides, the tourism policies and diversifications differ from country to country among the D-8 members. Consequently, instead of creating Visit D-8 Campaign Logo, it would be more suitable to set up a framework and criterion about the common tourism activities and how to develop these tourism products between and among the D-8 countries. Furthermore, every D-8 member country may promote the other D-8 member countries in all exhibitions they join.