

Report

D-8 Tourism Senior Officials Meeting on Nominations for the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award, Virtually Held on 28th August 2024

The Meeting of the Senior Officials from Tourism Ministries/Departments of D-8 member states was held virtually on 28 August, 2024 to discuss nominations of the D-8 city of the year award.

Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director I Administrative, Legal and Internal Issues of the D-8 Secretariat, opened the meeting, which was attended by Senior officials from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Türkiye. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item I - Statement by the D-8 Secretary General

Mr. Ahmar Ismail delivered opening remarks on behalf of Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of the D-8. He provided a historical perspective on the initiative of the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award. He also informed member states on the preferences received from Iran and Türkiye on nominations for the D-8 city of the year award for 2025. The statement is attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item II- Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda

The Meeting considered and adopted the agenda. The adopted agenda is attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item III - Discussions on Nominations Submitted by Iran (Kerman), Pakistan (Lahore) and Türkiye (Antalya) for D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award 2025.

The Secretariat informed member states that, in accordance with the decision of the last Senior Officials Meeting held on 30 July 2024, Iran and Türkiye have submitted their preferences for the nominations for the D-8 City of the Year Award for 2025.

The Secretariat invited member states, in alphabetical order, to share their preferences for Antalya, Kerman, and Lahore in the selection of the D-8 City of the Year Award for 2025.

Bangladesh provided its preference as follows:

- 1- Antalya
- 2- Kerman
- 3- Lahore

Egypt Provided its preferences as follows:

- 1- Antalya
- 2- Lahore
- 3- Kerman

Iran provided its preferences as follows:

- 1- Kerman
- 2- Lahore
- 3- Antalya

Pakistan provided its preferences as follows:

- 1- Lahore
- 2- Antalya
- 3- Kerman

Türkiye provided its preferences as follows:

- 1- Antalya
- 2- Lahore
- 3- Kerman

Indonesia and Malaysia requested extension of timeline for submitting their preferences until the end of September 2024, which was approved by the meeting.

After deliberations, the meeting agreed on the following:

- i. Following Iran's proposal to select the three nominated cities (from Iran, Pakistan, Türkiye) for consecutive years 2025, 2026, and 2027 (one year for each city); member states will inform the Secretariat of their decision on the proposal before the next SOM, scheduled to be held on 30 September 2024.

- ii. The representative of Egypt graciously informed the meeting that the Arab Republic of Egypt will host the upcoming 4th Senior Officials and Ministerial meetings. The official announcement for these meetings will be shared with the Secretariat in due course.
- iii. The nominated cities for the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award (Antalya, Kerman, and Lahore) are tentatively requested to share a list of planned activities for the entire year, which may be discussed at the next SOM (30 September 2024).
- iv. The next meeting of Senior Officials and the Experts from the tourism ministries of the D-8 member states will be organized virtually by the Secretariat on 30 September 2024.

Closing:

On behalf of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director I, at the Secretariat, extended his sincere appreciation to the participants for their valuable and substantive contributions.

All the respectable delegates expressed their appreciation to the D-8 Secretariat for convening the meeting.

Tourism
Senior Officials meeting
To Discuss the Nominations for ‘D-8Tourism City of the Year’ award
28 August 2024, held virtually

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| Bangladesh | Mr. Abu Tahir Muhammad Zaber Chief Executive Officer Bangladesh Tourism Board | Phone: +8801727608090 Email: zaber1967@gmail.com |
| | Mr. Mohibul Islam Deputy Director (Marketing and Branding) Bangladesh Tourism Board | Email: dd.mkt@btb.gov.bd |
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| Egypt | Ms. Ghada Ali Ministry of tourism and antiquities | Email: inter_rels@tourism.gov.eg , ghadaaly2015@gmail.com |
| Indonesia | Ms. Herlina Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of The Republic of Indonesia | Email: multilateral@indonesia.travel |
| Iran | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Mr Moslem Shojaee, director general of tourism marketing and development department of the ministry of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts 2- Mr Saeed Shahrokhi, Director General of the Kerman province cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts department 3- Ms Golbanoo Khavari, Head of International Specialized Cooperation Group Ministry of Cultural Heritage Tourism and Handicrafts 4- Mr. Masoud Taghavi Officer in Charge of International Specialization Organization of The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts 5- Ms Farah Valinejad, officer in charge of Regional Specialized Organization of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage Tourism and Handicrafts 6- Mr Mohammadreza Hafezi Representative of International Relations Department of Ministry of Cultural Heritage Tourism and Handicrafts | <p>Email: tpm.shojaei@gmail.com phone: +989127969512</p> <p>Email: saeedshahrokhi@gmail.com Phone: +989133480341</p> <p>Email: goli.khavari@gmail.com Phone: +989123200128</p> <p>Email: Taghavimasoodjan@gmail.com Phone: +98 912 377 3515</p> <p>Email: fara.diba1971@gmail.com Phone: +989125330289</p> <p>Email: mohammadhafezi97@yahoo.com Phone: +989128100967</p> |

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| Malaysia | <p>1- Fakhirah Matahab & Lionel Daraup International Affairs Branch Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Malaysia</p> <p>2- Ms. Farizatol Huda Abdul Rahim: Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia</p> | <p>Email: multidpl@motac.gov.my nurfakhirah@motac.gov.my</p> <p>Email: farizatol@motac.gov.my</p> |
| Pakistan | <p>Ms. Sadaf Zafar Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation</p> | <p>Email: sadaf.zafar29@gmail.com Phone: +92 301 4080807</p> |
| Türkiye | <p>1- Mehmet KAYA Chief- Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey Foreign Affairs Department Directorate</p> <p>2- Mr. Enis Uğur - Culture and Tourism Expert - Ministry of Culture and Tourism</p> | <p>Email: mehmet.kaya@ktb.gov.tr</p> <p>Email: enis.ugur@ktb.gov.tr - Phone: +90 312 470 79 05</p> |
| Secretariat | <p>1- Mr. Ahmar Ismail Director, Administrative, Legal and Internal Issues</p> <p>2- Mr. Muhammad Bilal Khan Executive Assistant</p> | <p>Email: ahmar.ismail@developing8.org</p> <p>Email: bilal.khan@developing8.org</p> |

**STATEMENT BY H.E., AMBASSADOR ISIAKA ABDULQADIR
IMAM, SECRETARY GENERAL OF DEVELOPING-8
ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AT THE
MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF
TOURISM OF D-8 MEMBER STATES TO DISCUSS THE
FINALIZATION OF THE NOMINATION OF THE D-8 TOURISM
CITY OF THE YEAR AWARD 2025, HELD VIRTUALLY ON 28
AUGUST 2024.**

Senior officials and Experts from the Ministries of Tourism,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asalam o Alaikum.

First and foremost, let me begin by offering sincere apologies on behalf of the Secretary General of our organization, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, who is unavoidably absent today because he is away on official assignment outside Türkiye. He has, however,

asked me to stand in, for him, and deliver his address to this August gathering.

**Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this significant Senior Officials Meeting of the D-8 Ministries of Tourism, being organized by the D-8 Secretariat.

This meeting is in continuation of our concerted efforts to strengthen tourism cooperation among D-8 member states. The meeting also represents a pivotal moment, as we work to finalize the nominations for the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award for 2025.

As you may recall, during our last SOM held on 30 July 2024, the Secretariat informed member states about the nominations received from the cities of Iran – Kerman, Pakistan – Lahore, and Türkiye –

Antalya. These nominations highlighted the rich cultural heritage, vibrant tourism infrastructure, and unique experiences each city offers.

As you would further recall, Iran, Pakistan, and Türkiye delivered comprehensive presentations for their nominated cities, showcasing the immense potentials of each location in terms of infrastructure, tourist arrivals, transportation, and security systems.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As agreed at our last meeting, all member states were requested to submit their preferences for the nominated cities, in order of priority, to the Secretariat by 20 August 2024. I am pleased to note that the Secretariat has received preferences only from Iran, for the City of Kerman, and Türkiye, for the City of Antalya. It is hoped that we would be able to reach a final decision at today's meeting.

Moreover, today's meeting will also address other crucial matters, such as the need for hosting the 4th D-8 Senior Officials and Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, later this year. To this end, we would appreciate, if member states could volunteer to host the 4th D-8 Senior Officials and Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, preferably before the end of this year.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we move forward, let us remain guided by the principles of mutual respect, cooperation, and shared vision of enhancing tourism across our member states. The D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award represents more than just recognition; it symbolizes our collective commitment to showcasing the diverse and enriching experiences our member states offer to the world.

In closing, **Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,** I would like to appeal to this August gathering, that, in the course of taking this crucial decision, we should take cognizance of the issue of cooperation that binds us together in the D8, before we arrive at our final decision. Therefore, we must prioritize the spirit of inclusiveness, we are known for at our organization, while making decision for the D8 Tourism City of the Year for 2025.

I am confident that our discussions, today, will lead to outcomes that would contribute to the growth and promotion of tourism, within our D-8 community. I thank you all for your continued dedication and cooperation and wish you all successful deliberation.

Thank you for your attention.

Agenda/ Program of Work

D-8 Tourism Senior Officials on Nominations for the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award

Virtually Scheduled on 28 August 2024

11:00 Hours: Commence of the Meeting.

11:05 – 11:10 hrs. Statement by His Excellency, Ambassador Isiaka Abdul Qadir Imam, the Secretary General of D-8

11:10 – 12:00 hrs. Discussions on Nominations Submitted by Iran (Kerman), Pakistan (Lahore) and Türkiye (Antalya) for D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award 2025.

12:00- 12:10 hrs. closing of the meeting.