

Chiranjeevi Inaugurates UNWTO Regional Commissions Meeting



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Union Tourism Minister Shri K Chiranjeevion inaugurated the 25th Joint Meeting of UNWTO Commissions for South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific at Hyderabad today. Speaking on the occasion the Minister said by hosting this event India has been able to showcase its rich heritage to the world. He said “We have also been successful in communicating that India is a safe destination for the tourists’ '. The Minister said that endeavour of his Ministry will remain to bring more such international events to India and make the country as a leading

centre for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions & Events). He said during the year 2012, Asia and the Pacific region saw the highest growth with a rate of over 7%. The sub-region of South East Asia recorded the maximum number of arrivals within these regions with a growth of 9%. The Minister said “You will all be happy to note that India was second in terms of international tourism

receipts in the region in the year 2012. The Indian tourism growth of 5.4% in terms of foreign tourist arrivals was higher than the world average of 4%”.

The delegates shared the market trends of the region in the year 2012 and tourism prospects for the year 2013. The two Commissions also discussed the priority areas of work to be undertaken in the year 2014-15. Various bilateral meetings took place for developing intra-regional and inter-regional strategies. Besides, the two commissions discussed the issue of development of UNWTO Convention for the protection of tourists and tourism service providers and implementation of Global code of ethics for Tourism. The meeting identified Visa, Taxation and Connectivity as three important determinants for the growth of tourism.

Delegates from 21 countries, eight UNWTO affiliate members, two regional organizations and many industry organizations attended these meetings. It was also decided that the next Joint Meeting of the two Commissions will be held in Philippines and the 21st Session of General Assembly of UNWTO will be held in Cambodia.

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