



Warm greetings from BIMP-EAGA!

In recent years, community-based ecotourism has become one of the fastest growing sectors of the tourism industry. Ecotourism and all nature related forms of tourism are estimated to account for at least 6% of global tourist arrivals, or roughly 53 million. The ASEAN region contributes about 7% of global ecotourism, with the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) sub region accounting for about a sixth of this share. These numbers point to a robust outlook for international tourism and strong prospects for the ecotourism sector, particularly in areas with rich natural biodiversity such as BIMP-EAGA.

The market prospects for ecotourism are, indeed, very encouraging. But how do we take better advantage of these prospects? How do we strike a balance between the growth of ecotourism and the sustainable management of our nature-based resources? How do we increase our competitiveness in this high growth sector? What are the issues and challenges we need to face in ecotourism development? What lessons can be drawn from best practices and experiences in ecotourism development?

You can find out the answers to these and other questions by participating in the first ever **BIMP-EAGA Community-Based Ecotourism Conference in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia on 30 October to 1 November 2008**. Adopting the theme *“Driving Growth and Poverty Alleviation through Community-Based Ecotourism in BIMP-EAGA”*, the three-day event is expected to result in increased awareness and appreciation by the national and local governments, local communities and the private sector of the benefits and costs and approaches to developing community-based ecotourism in the sub region, as well as in agreed measures to address the key constraints to the development of community-based ecotourism projects in the area. It expects to draw the participation of around 200 public and private sector policymakers, practitioners and other stakeholders in the tourism and allied industries in BIMP-EAGA and surrounding regions.

As can be seen in the attached flyer, the conference has a lot in store for you in terms of plenary sessions addressing various exciting topics by internationally renowned resource persons in the fields of tourism, sustainable management of terrestrial and marine resources, policymaking, marketing and capacity building. A special feature of the conference is an ecotourism exhibition that will showcase ecotourism destinations, products, technology, and institutional services.

As an important stakeholder of this industry, we are inviting you to participate in this exciting landmark event. For more information and details, please contact:

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Attention: Ms. Shelley Sondakh / Ms. Wieske Rotinsulu

We'll see you all in Manado!!

Bernardino Moningka Vega, Jr.
Conference Chair/ BIMP-EAGA Business Council

Mary Ann M. Montemayor
BIMP-EAGA Tourism Council



BIMP-EAGA Community-Based Ecotourism Conference

Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia
October 30th - November 1st, 2008

The BIMP-EAGA community based eco-tourism conference in Manado, North Sulawesi will raise awareness and understanding of the potential and opportunities of land and marine-based eco-tourism development in region. The conference will explore the benefits of community based eco-tourism by presenting experiences/ lessons learnt as well as developing win-win partnerships in eco-tourism between local communities, the private sector and public sector. Issues and trends in community based eco-tourism development, operations, marketing, and regulations will also be discussed at the various forums.

An added feature of this conference will be the preparation of a road map for marketing the BIMP-EAGA as a Single Community Based Eco-Tourism Destination. The initiatives and outcomes of the meetings will be conveyed and proposed at the upcoming BIMP-EAGA SOMM/ Leaders forum.

An eco-tourism showcase/ exhibition will also be held simultaneous with the conference and will feature eco-tourism destinations in BIMP-EAGA, products of eco-tourism related technology, and eco-certification organization and initiatives.



BIMP-EAGA stands for Brunei Indonesia Malaysia and the Philippines – East ASEAN Growth Area. It is a sub regional cooperation that includes the country of Brunei Darussalam, the islands of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Papua, and the Moluccas in Eastern Indonesia, the island of Labuan, the States of Sarawak and Sabah in Borneo Malaysia, as well as the islands of Mindanao and Palawan in Southern Philippines.

The sub region is rich in natural heritage. It has two of the richest tropical rain forests (Borneo and Papua) as well as the most diverse marine eco-system (Sulu-Sulawesi Sea) anywhere in the world coupled with tribal cultures as varied as its flora and fauna. The conservation and protection of its environment is of paramount importance to the world.

*"Driving growth and Poverty Alleviation
through Community Based Eco-tourism in the BIMP-EAGA"*

More information at:
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THE PROGRAM

DAY 1: Thursday 30 October 2008

Keynote Address: "Community-based Ecotourism Partnerships--Driving Tourism Business Growth and Poverty Reduction in the BIMP-EAGA".

Session 1: Understanding Community-based Ecotourism and its Potential for the BIMP-EAGA.

Session 2: The Benefits of Community-based Ecotourism.

Session 3: Key Issues in Marine and Land-based Community-based Ecotourism Development.

Session 3A: Keynote Presentation on: Community-based Ecotourism in Marine and Coastal Environments.

Session 3B: Keynote Presentation on: Community-based Ecotourism in Mountains, Forests, and Protected Area Environment.

Session 4: Opportunities for Win-Win Community-based Ecotourism Partnerships.

Session 4A: Opportunities for Business in Community-based Ecotourism.

Session 4B: Bringing Local Communities, Government, and Business Together.

DAY 2: Friday 31 October 2008

Session 5: Issues and Trends in Community-based Ecotourism Development, Operations, Marketing, and Regulation.

Session 6: Experience and Lessons in Ecotourism Development--Contributing Towards the Achievement of the Millenium Goals.

Session 7: Preparing a Road Map for Marketing the BIMP-EAGA as a Single Community-based Ecotourism Destination.

Plenary discussions on an integrated position on community-based ecotourism development based in the BIMP-EAGA Subregion.

DAY 3: Saturday 1 November 2008

An interpreted walk through the showcase of community-bases ecotourism facilities and proposed projects.

Senior Officials Forum

- Welcome Remarks by the Ministry of Tourism
- Appointment of Chairman
- Adoption of Agenda for Discussions
- Discussion of Agenda Items
- Agreeing the form of the final Communique to SOM Leaders
- Closing Remarks

The Venue at
SINTESA PENINSULA HOTEL
Manado



"Strengthening EAGA Communities through Conservation"