



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **H.E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee appointed Chairman of Programme Committee for UN World Tourism Organisation**

H.E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism headed the Malaysian delegation to the 17<sup>th</sup> World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) General Assembly held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia 22 – 29 November 2007. Around 700 Participants from 120 countries, 56 Affiliate Members and 20 international organizations, and close to 200 registered members of the press participated in the Assembly.

The Assembly was divided into two segments:

- **The Technical Segment** dealt with issues around the administrative structure, such as the budget and the programme of work, financial matters or the cooperation with the UN system. It was co-Chaired by H. E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee of Malaysia together with Mr. Alejandro Varela, Coordinator of the Multilateral relations of the Secretariat of Tourism Argentina. They were appointed in their capacity as candidates for the posts of Chairman of the Programme Committee and Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance respectively.
- **The Ministerial Segment** dealt with the main issues that the Organization is currently working on, ranging from climate change and tourism to international tourism trends, as well as the prospects for the sector over the next years.

UNWTO gained wide support of the official delegates to continue its work around climate change as laid out in the Davos Declaration, which was submitted to the Assembly and was previously endorsed during the Tourism Ministerial Summit on London on 13 November. The Davos Declaration “urges action by the entire tourism sector to face climate change as one of the greatest challenges to sustainable development, and to the Millennium Development Goals in the 21st Century.”

H.E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee was appointed the full member of Programme Committee for Commission of Asia and the Pacific for term of 2007-2009 on the 26 November 2007. The appointment was based on H. E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee’s personal capacity, taking into consideration his knowledge of the tourism industry and his reputation as an economist. With this appointment, Malaysia’s role as a global player in tourism has been recognised and acknowledged.

As the full member of the Programme Committee for Commission of East Asia and the Pacific (CAP), H. E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee will represent the CAP member countries namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Filipina, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. He will be responsible for the planning and execution of appropriate programmes for CAP, in line with the UNWTO objective of improving the tourism industry worldwide.

Besides that, Malaysia, with the full support of other member countries, was elected as the Full Member of Committee on Budget and Finance for term 2007-2009, and as the judge for the poster competition.

Malaysia will be able to play a more significant role in advancing Malaysia's leadership in the global tourism arena and also to take advantage of the expertise available within UNWTO members. Malaysia's involvement will also help enhance the development of, inter alia capacity building, destination management and sustainable development of Malaysia's tourism industry.

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## INTRANET NEWS

### **H.E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee appointed Chairman of Programme Committee for UN World Tourism Organisation**

Malaysia's role as a global player in tourism has been recognised by the appointment of H.E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism as Chairman of the Programme Committee at the 17<sup>th</sup> United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) General Assembly held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia on the 26 November 2007.

The appointment based on Datuk Dr. Victor Wee's personal capacity was made taking into consideration his knowledge of the tourism industry and his reputation as an economist.

Datuk Wee was appointed as the full member of the Programme Committee for Commission of East Asia and the Pacific (CAP), H. E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee will represent the CAP member countries namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Filipina, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. He will be responsible for the planning and execution of appropriate programmes for CAP, in line with the UNWTO objective of improving the tourism industry worldwide.

Besides that, Malaysia, with the full support of other member countries, was elected as the Full Member of Committee on Budget and Finance for term 2007-2009, and as the judge for the poster competition.

H. E. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee was also appointed as the co-Chairman of the technical segment of the 17<sup>th</sup> UNWTO General Assembly together with Mr. Alejandro Varela, Coordinator of the Multilateral relations of the Secretariat of Tourism Argentina. They were appointed in their capacity as candidates for the posts of Chairman of the Programme Committee and Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance respectively.

Malaysia will be able to play a more significant role in advancing Malaysia's leadership in the global tourism arena and also to take advantage of the expertise available within UNWTO members. Malaysia's involvement will also help enhance the development of, inter alia capacity building, destination management and sustainable development of Malaysia's tourism industry.

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