

TourismScan

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From the Editor

As we indicated last year, TourismScan has been changed from a monthly to a occasional e-newsletter by ECOT. So, here comes the first edition in 2008 with information on various issues of concern for the wider community ECOT is in touch with.

I would like to call your attention to the very first note on the World Population Growth and ask you to reflect on the facts and the mid- and longterm impacts on our planet: on natural resources, air, water; the social interaction between peoples, the probability of conflict and suffering. An ever increasing population will have a new need for leisure time, free time, time to escape,, time to go to 'the countryside', the seaside etc. What efforts must be taken to channel these new masses? What has to be done to control the increasing demand according to the principles of non-harming and sustainability? Please share your thoughts with us! Email to: Julia@ecotonline.org. In solidarity, Julia Schonharl (Editor)

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World Population Growth: Fertile Ground for Uncertainty

Growth in the human population abounds despite falling fertility rates, and where it heads in the future will continue to confound demographers, according to the latest Vital Sign Update from the Worldwatch Institute. With future fertility trends being unpredictable, closing the "gender gap" may be one key to slowing population growth. In the forthcoming book "Population, Nature, and What Women Want" the author challenges assertions that world population is "expected" to be slightly higher than 9 billion people in 2050, up from today's 6.7 billion. At ECOT we are concerned what the population growth means for people's travel and tourism behavior; both, tourists and hosts. Demand for green space and leisure activities in fast growing (mainly poor) urban settlements will rise at a high speed; as will the rural settings change with a

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different set of needs regarding food production, transportation, employment etc.

Source: <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5645>.

Write us your thoughts on this!

Email: contours@ecotonline.org. Thank you very much!

The World's Most Dangerous Destinations www.tourism-review.com/

Recent survey regarding the world's most dangerous places by www.forbes.com show that the Top 10 consists of countries renowned for being impoverished by war, deep in geopolitical turmoil and the centers of territorial disputes. The first 5 are Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti and Pakistan. Sudan, Congo, Lebanon, Zimbabwe and the Palestinian territories make up the top ten.

Dalai Lama promote spiritual tourism in India

Source: www.IANS.co.in, 18-Feb-2004

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama and Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam sought to project Tibet as a destination for "spiritual tourism", saying a visit to its Buddhist holy sites would help people enrich their lives. "Spiritual tourism means visiting the hearts and minds of the intellectuals in different places and places of enrich civilizational environment," he said. "Every place is a place of enlightenment and provides the beautiful message. The message flows from 'The University of Universal Unity and Understanding.'" India's tourism industry could not have hoped for better spokesmen than the Dalai Lama and Kalam saying: "This is what Buddhist culture can do - bring people together, bring nations together, and bring peace at no cost. This is religion that had grown in stature to be the messiah of god and the advocate of the spiritual role of the religion".

Solving climate change through traditional wisdom – Bali Group announces World Silent Day

<http://worldsilentday.org/blog/about/>

The Bali Community on Climate Change BCCC with members from various sectors calls for World Silent Day on March 21st, also the World Water Day. This Day is to encourage people to stop (minimize) activity and energy consumption for one day to let the Earth rests. BCCC estimates that during World Silent Day CO2 emission reduction in Bali will be at least 20,000 tons because motor cycles, cars and airplanes will cease to operate.

Bali can do it, why can't the world?

Booming tourism development in China

Source: [Gulf Times Newspaper](http://www.gulf-times.com), 7 March, 2008

Tourist hotspots are requesting more help to attract the high-spending foreign visitors who have transformed economies in rival destinations such as Thailand. The reasons for tourism's poor performance are poor facilities and competition from Phuket, Bali and Hawaii, as Chinese local governments

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identified. The central government has invested billions of dollars in infrastructure, hoping in part to open poorer parts of the country to tourism and bring in much needed income to China's vast and underdeveloped countryside. The article mentions that in a TV ad in English for *Hainan* the narrator pronounces the island's name more like 'Henan', which is a gritty inland province better known for being a source of migrant workers and a centre of China's AIDS epidemic. ECOT wonders if that was just a coincidence. Certainly, as in other mass tourism destinations, the threat of HIV infection is very high...

Growth, growth, growth – at the cost of the environment?

Source: IPS.com/ ALBANIA

Tourism development in Albania is a central strategic goal for development. In Southern Albania, for the first time ever, pristine beaches may well receive Blue Flag recognition. However, the government firstly must address the growing problems with solid and wastewater treatment. The initiative, supported by the World Bank and the UNDP is targeting to attract more tourists and by engaging the local population, keep communities and the natural surrounding clean. Public participation in cleaning activities faded away after communism collapsed in 1991. Initiatives such as the weekly neighborhood clean-ups are still perceived as having been imposed by the previous regime. Albania thinks that tourism holds the key to development in coastal regions, and awareness rises slowly that a clean environment is a key asset.

ECOT hopes that the World Bank funded Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-up Project will succeed for the sake of nature and local people's living environment – and that communities will gain ownership to self-manage the tourism they want...

Carbon-neutral Carnival in Brazil Source: [Tierramérica/ Inter Press Service](#)

Greenhouse gases emitted in Sao Paulo during the Carnival season in February shall be compensated by planting trees promoting an "ecologically correct" carnival. Environmentalists agree but urge to continue rising awareness and not creating the feeling that 'we have done enough' what could threaten to substitute the entire struggle of all factors generating climate change. The initiative joins in with the global "Carbon Zero" campaign which requests to neutralize green house gases of public events by adequate projects of the local government.

If the agriculture sector should, Tourism should even more!

According to FAO, the agriculture sector has a unique opportunity to contribute to preventing and tackling the impacts of HIV and AIDS. The epidemic has rapidly moved into the rural areas, the overwhelming majority are the rural poor, and among them women. Today, 95% of people living with - and dying of - HIV and AIDS are in developing countries. The epidemic is undoing decades of economic and social development and causing rural disintegration. FAO says that the agricultural sector cannot continue with "business as usual" in communities where vast numbers of adults are dead, leaving only the elderly and children.

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At ECOT we think that the same is true for the tourism sector – and even more as social interaction between guests and hosts are high and thus is the threat of increased HIV infection in tourism destinations.

Source: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org/hiv/highlights/viewHighlight.do~activeHighlightId=?intcmp=914>

Israel excludes priests, nuns

Source: www.cathnews.com, September 24, 2007

The Israeli government has cancelled re-entry visas for priests, nuns and other church workers who wish to travel in and out of the Israeli occupied Palestinian territories. Independent Catholic News reports the measures have left a number stranded abroad. Until now, re-entry visas have been readily granted in Israel by the Israeli Government to Arab church workers in the Holy Land. Clergy traveled relatively freely to and from points overseas, including the United States.

Palestine: Program on education, tourism, hospitality, and volunteering

Birthright Palestine is a program by native Palestinians for Diaspora Palestinians. It is meant to gather first-generation, western-born Palestinians (over the age of 18-years old) in their ancestral homeland, so that they can reunite and witness firsthand how their brethren are living under illegal Israeli military occupation, while assimilating them into Palestinian society.

The program is made-up of four major components, education, tourism, hospitality, and volunteering. The concept was created by the Palestine Center for National Strategic Studies (PCNSS) is a new, non-profit, non-violent, non-factional, non-governmental organizational think tank based out of the Dheisheh Refugee Camp.

Information: www.birthrightpalestine.com

Casinos for Thai tourist centers **Source: Bangkok post, 04-Mar-2008**

Seeking a share of the billions of dollars generated in casinos, the Thai Prime Minister is about to legalize gambling, fearing that otherwise such earnings would flow to neighboring countries like Macau and Malaysia. Tourist areas like Pattaya, Phuket, Khon Kaen, Chiang Mai and Hat Yai will 'benefit' firstly as well as the capital. Advocates of the legalization claim the huge amount of money now going to illegal or offshore. Forecasts say that Asia-Pacific will become the world's second largest casino market after the United States.

However, gambling could lead to further impoverishment of lower-income families and opponent voices say that as Thailand is still attached to traditional values legalization seems inappropriate in the Buddhist society.

Announcements

1. **'Taking Stock, Moving Ahead' ECOT Conference has been re-scheduled to later this year. Please check the website for updates!**
2. The Second International Conference on Sustainable Tourism from 12th to 15th May in Fortaleza/Brazil has the objective to bring people together that are involved in the discussion, to show experiences of community-based tourism and to develop new strategies for sustainability and solidarity in tourism. For further information: www.sits2008.org.br Contact: secretaria@sits2008.org.br
3. **Contours Magazine 1/2008** will be published in June 2008. It will cover **'Climate Change and Tourism'** with a variety of articles from writers around the world.

If your organization wants to place an **add, announcement or else** in CONTOURS, please email to contours@ecotonline.org

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Contribution for 4 editions is 35 US\$ (coverage of postage and printing costs). We appreciate any other contribution you want to make to ECOT.

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