

GTIF – GLOBAL TOURISM INTERVENTIONS FORUM

C/O Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism
96, 2ND District, Pak Tin Village, Mei tin Road. Shatin N.T. Hong Kong SAR

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Preamble

The GTIF was created in recognition of ongoing debates on tourism development that have taken place in consultations around the globe, the World Social Forum and international fora like the CSD. The GTIF seeks to support, strengthen and sustain the debate and interventions on tourism issues within a multitude of anti-globalization and human rights movements, and is committed to change the character of global tourism. In solidarity with local movements, we work together with community representatives, activists, and researchers in various parts of the world to strengthen our struggle for a tourism that is equitable, people centred, sustainable, ecologically sensible, child friendly and gender just.

The GTIF- what it is

GTIF is a process & space for advocacy for articulation of a people's plan of action for tourism:

- Recognizing a paradigm shift and a generational change in the tourism debate in the context of neo-liberal reforms
- Actualizing the engagement with tourism on the basis of communities of peoples, ethnic groups, women & children, human & civil rights, cultures & heritage that are now starting a new relationship with tourism
- Committing to work together, at the complex levels at which tourism is intersecting with our lives, livelihoods, food security, water, health to realize self-determination and dignity
- Redefining the political relationship between the north & south so that we set our agenda – to democratize tourism, for realizing our own potential
- Uniting our struggles, movements, and ideologies through a recognition that we will move forward to strengthen our position in determining the new path to development, through research at the grassroots level, interaction at the field and policy level, coordinating our belief in a people centred, just & equitable access to resources, livelihood and empowerment.

Themes and issues

- a. Coastal poor, island economies, tsunami, land rights, climate change impacts
- b. Trade, globalization & tourism and institutional issues (north – south & south – south relationships)
- c. Peoples' sovereignty and governance, peace, war & violence concentrating on troubled areas such as Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq etc.
- d. Resistance strategies against tourism impacts

Who does GTIF address?

- a.
- b. UN bodies in particular the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Tourism Organization (WTO-OMT), Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Regional United Nations bodies.
- c. World Bank & Regional Development Banks, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Trade Organization (WTO-OMC)
- d. Regional & Inter-regional bodies (NGO and inter-governmental)
- e. Governments – local, national, international
- f. Organization of Islamic Conferences
- g. World Council of Churches/ Regional Ecumenical Organizations (REOs) and other religious
- h. Businesses: associations, corporates acting internationally
- i. Social movements, groups, NGOs active in the fields of Human Rights (women, children, IPs, ethnic groups), labour rights, trade & economy, development, environment & climate, culture & heritage, religion,
- j. Complimentary networks at local, national, regional & global levels
- k. Media

The World Social Forum (WSF) vis-a-vis GTIF

The WSF is:

- a. place where the tourism network can meet and solidarity can be shown
- b. an important space for global exchange on grassroots level and networking
- c. space to present and to integrate the tourism issues into the global social movement
- d. important opportunity for GTIF to clarify positions and to develop strategies
- e. a place to develop south-south and south-north cooperative relationships
- f. Members of GTIF should be encouraged to get involved into the regional social forums.

GTIF Secretariat

An Intern working with ECOT

Strategies

1. Strengthening transformative interactions among local, national, regional initiatives particularly focussing on people to people, inter-local solidarity at global level
2. Promoting people/ life centred religious – secular, interfaith, ecumenical cooperation
3. Using various events & platforms as part of GTIF process
4. Empowering community-based researches and initiatives for global interventions
5. Strengthening complimentary networks with other inter-related movements and organizations
6. Formation of working groups with equal representatives from local, national, regional and global organizations

Concrete agenda items for 2006-2007

1. Tsunami recovery and reconstruction. (ECOT working in collaboration with all network partners) through staff person(s) based in ECOT Secretariat and in Europe.
 2. Hong Kong Ministerial (December 2005)
 3. Regional Social Forums (2006)
 4. WSF 2007
 5. ECOT 25th anniversary/Global Tourism Assembly
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1. Alternative Tourism Group (ATG)
 2. Arbeitskreis Tourismus und Entwicklung (AKTE)
 3. Asociacion Para La Defensa y Dessarrollo de Kuelap
 4. Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN)
 5. Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)
 6. Committee of Islamic relief Organizations (CIRO)
 7. Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT)
 8. EQUATIONS (EQS)
 9. Tourism Watch