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HOJA DE RUTA PARA LA RECUPERACIÓN
EL TURISMO Y LOS VIAJES: UN INSTRUMENTO PRIMORDIAL PARA LA
CREACIÓN DE EMPLEO Y LA RECUPERACIÓN DE LA ECONOMÍA

(Informe del Secretario General sobre el turismo sostenible en tiempos difíciles)

Nota del Secretario General

En este punto del orden del día provisional, el Secretario General presenta a la Asamblea un documento sobre el turismo sostenible en tiempos difíciles, que se centra en las repercusiones de la actual crisis económica en sobre el turismo, y en las acciones emprendidas por la Organización a este respecto, concretamente en la *Hoja de ruta para la recuperación*.

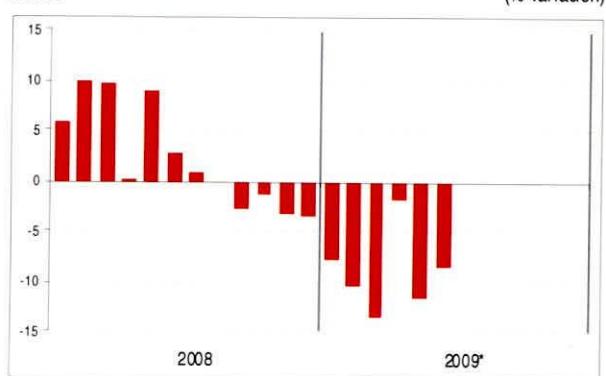
HOJA DE RUTA PARA LA RECUPERACIÓN EL TURISMO Y LOS VIAJES: UN INSTRUMENTO PRIMORDIAL PARA LA CREACIÓN DE EMPLEO Y LA RECUPERACIÓN DE LA ECONOMÍA

1. Repercusiones de la crisis económica mundial en el turismo

La economía mundial está sufriendo la recesión más grave del periodo posterior a la Segunda Guerra Mundial, de consecuencias perjudiciales para millones de personas, empresas y puestos de trabajo en el mundo entero. Las economías avanzadas empezaron a luchar contra la recesión, e incluso las economías emergentes, que en un principio parecían resistir mejor, tuvieron que enfrentarse pronto al impacto de la crisis. Las proyecciones económicas más recientes indican que la economía mundial podría haber tocado fondo y estar empezando a resurgir de esta recesión sin precedentes. Pero los expertos advierten de que la recuperación puede ser lenta. Por otra parte, el desempleo, que creció con rapidez, necesitará más tiempo para recuperarse. La Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) estima que el total mundial de desempleados podría incrementarse en 2009 entre 29 millones (escenario mínimo) y 59 millones (escenario máximo) con respecto a 2007.

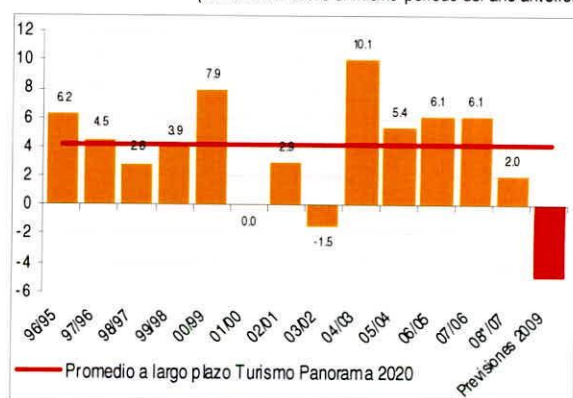
Aunque resiste mejor a la crisis que otros sectores, el turismo no ha permanecido inmune al deterioro de la situación económica. Después de un comienzo muy bueno, con un crecimiento mundial de las llegadas internacionales de casi 6% de media en los seis primeros meses de 2008, la demanda cayó bruscamente: un 1% entre julio y diciembre de 2008. Como se preveía, la tendencia se ha intensificado en 2009, año en que se estima que las llegadas de turistas internacionales descendieron 8/9% en los seis primeros meses (se presentará una estimación actualizada en la Asamblea General).

Llegadas de turistas internacionales, evolución mensual
Mundo



Fuente: Organización Mundial del Turismo (OMT) ©

Llegadas de turistas internacionales, Mundo
(% variación sobre el mismo periodo del año anterior)



Fuente: Organización Mundial del Turismo (OMT) ©

Con la excepción de África, todas las regiones registraron descensos de las llegadas, viéndose particularmente afectadas las de Europa y Oriente Medio. En muchos destinos, el comportamiento del mercado interno, si bien mejor que el de los mercados receptores, no ha sido suficiente para compensar la caída de la demanda internacional. Estos resultados reflejan el grave impacto de la crisis económica que golpeó a las economías avanzadas -que son los principales mercados emisores de turismo-, y se extendió con fuerza y rapidez a los mercados emergentes, que en los últimos años son uno de los principales motores del crecimiento del turismo y de la economía en el mundo.

Las condiciones económicas, unidas a las incertidumbres añadidas causadas por el brote de gripe A(H1N1) en abril de este año, seguirán incidiendo en la demanda turística, al menos a corto plazo. Aunque se espera que el ritmo de ese descenso empiece a menguar en el resto de 2009, se pronostica que el turismo internacional disminuirá entre -6% y -4% este año. Si así fuera, ese resultado sería el peor desde hace decenios. Se prevé que el crecimiento será negativo en todas las regiones, excepto en África. Los mercados interiores, muy estimulados por muchos gobiernos durante la crisis, habrían de comportarse ligeramente mejor. Como en crisis anteriores, se calcula que los ingresos turísticos sufrirán más que las llegadas, ya que los consumidores tienden a comprar más barato, y permanecer más cerca de su lugar de residencia en estancias más breves. En el mundo entero, las empresas, en particular las pequeñas y medianas (PYME) que forman el grueso del sector del turismo, se enfrentan a dificultades crecientes a medida que desciende la demanda y se vuelve más difícil el acceso al crédito.

2. La respuesta de la OMT

Al declararse la crisis, la OMT preparó un programa para ofrecer al sector, y en particular a sus Miembros, el apoyo necesario para ayudarlos a salvar mejor esta época de dificultades. En octubre de 2008, se estableció un Comité de Reactivación del Turismo (CRT) bajo la presidencia del Ministro de Turismo de Egipto, el Excmo. Sr. Zoheir Garranah, que permitiría reunir a todos los Miembros de la OMT y a los agentes esenciales del sector.

El Comité tiene la finalidad de ofrecer un seguimiento más estrecho de los mercados, una plataforma para compartir experiencias sobre el impacto de la crisis y la respuesta a ella, apoyo para las asociaciones público-privadas, y coherencia entre la acción a corto plazo y a largo plazo. Además, uno de los principales objetivos del Comité era dar orientación sobre la forma en que el sector podría superar la crisis actual.

Hasta la fecha, el Comité se ha reunido dos veces (en enero y marzo de 2009), y volverá a reunirse durante la Asamblea.

Bajo la dirección del Comité, se emprendieron las actividades siguientes (anexo 1: Informe sobre las actividades del Comité de Reactivación del Turismo, 2009):

- Actualizaciones intermedias del Barómetro OMT del Turismo Mundial para complementar el seguimiento regular de los mercados: El *Barómetro OMT del Turismo Mundial* es el informe de seguimiento a corto plazo de los mercados que prepara la OMT. Se publica tres veces al año (enero, junio y octubre). Para ofrecer una imagen más actualizada de la situación de los mercados, la Secretaría preparó dos informes intermedios del *Barómetro* en 2009 (en abril y a principios de octubre);
- Plataforma de información en línea sobre la crisis: cuando se declaró la crisis, la OMT creó un instrumento en línea en su página web (www.unwto.org/trc) para ofrecer estudios de mercado, e información sobre las actividades y las iniciativas de crisis que ejecutaba la Secretaría y sobre las medidas de respuesta a la crisis que se adoptaban en los países.

- Plataforma de estudios de mercado en Internet: la OMT ha creado una solución de información empresarial que permitirá a los Miembros de la OMT (con carácter exclusivo) tener acceso a datos mensuales de los indicadores esenciales, tanto en los destinos como en los mercados emisores (se realizará una presentación de esa nueva plataforma – el *Barómetro OMT del Turismo Mundial* en línea – en la tercera reunión del Comité de Reactivación del Turismo, que tendrá lugar el día 8 de octubre con ocasión de la Asamblea General).
- Colaboración con agentes como Amadeus, Visa International y Booz & Company para proporcionar nuevos indicadores y estudios de mercado sobre la incidencia de la crisis en la demanda de turismo. Esta colaboración abarca datos sobre transporte aéreo efectivo y reservas previstas, análisis de las repercusiones de la crisis en el transporte aéreo y gasto en viajes.
- Base de datos sobre medidas nacionales de estimulación para el sector turístico: incluye información de más de 60 países que han aplicado medidas en los campos siguientes: fiscal, monetario, recursos humanos, marketing, facilitación de los viajes, asociaciones público-privadas, cooperación regional y medio ambiente¹ (anexo 2: Medidas de estimulación para la reactivación del turismo, por países).
- Promoción del turismo como motor esencial de creación de empleo y recuperación económica: a este respecto, con ocasión de la reunión del G20 en abril de 2009, se difundió un mensaje con el fin de poner de manifiesto el potencial que tiene el turismo para apoyar acciones de estimulación a corto plazo, y también la transformación a más largo plazo de la economía en una economía verde, de forma coherente con los imperativos climáticos y de desarrollo (www.unwto.org/G20.php?lang=E).

Además, el CRT creó un grupo de trabajo central presidido por el Embajador de Austria en España, el Excmo. Sr. Noel Campbell, para orientar la preparación de una *Hoja de ruta para la recuperación*.

En la ITB de Berlín, en marzo de 2009, la OMT anunció su *Hoja de ruta para la recuperación*, que habrá de finalizar la Asamblea General de la OMT, sobre la base de 7 puntos de acción:

1. Ser realista
2. Asumir el cambio de los mercados, de la demanda y de la dinámica operativa
3. Utilizar el poder de la tecnología
4. Impulsar las asociaciones público-privadas
5. Recordar al mundo que el turismo significa empleos, infraestructura, comercio y desarrollo
6. Ayudar a los más pobres a cultivar el turismo, a combatir el cambio climático y a promover el desarrollo
7. Poner el turismo y los viajes en el centro de los paquetes de medidas de estimulación económica y del nuevo pacto verde.

¹ La base de datos está disponible en www.unwto.org/trc y se actualiza semanalmente.

A partir de los puntos anteriores, y después de un intenso programa de trabajo, dirigido por el Grupo Central del Comité de Reactivación del Turismo, se ha preparado una *Hoja de ruta para la recuperación* (anexo 3).

La *Hoja de ruta* comprende una serie de quince recomendaciones basadas en tres campos de acción vinculados entre sí: **Capacidad de recuperación** – **Estimulación** – **Economía verde**, destinadas a dar apoyo al sector turístico y a la economía mundial.

I CAPACIDAD DE RECUPERACIÓN

1. Centrarse en la conservación de los puestos de trabajo y en el apoyo al sector
2. Entender el mercado y reaccionar con rapidez
3. Impulsar las asociaciones y la «competencia cooperativa»
4. Fomentar las innovaciones y el uso de la tecnología
5. Fortalecer el apoyo regional e interregional

II. ESTIMULACIÓN

6. Crear nuevos empleos, en particular en las pequeñas y medianas empresas (PYME)
7. Integrar el *turismo* en los programas de estímulo y de infraestructura
8. Replantear los obstáculos fiscales y de visados que dificulten el crecimiento
9. Mejorar la promoción del *turismo* y capitalizar los grandes eventos
10. Incluir el *turismo* en la ayuda para el comercio y en el apoyo al desarrollo

III. ECONOMÍA VERDE

11. Fomentar la creación de puestos de trabajo y la capacitación para una economía verde
12. Responder con eficacia al cambio climático
13. Incluir el *turismo* en todas las estrategias de la economía verde
14. Incentivar la inversión en infraestructura turística verde
15. Promover una cultura de *turismo* verde entre proveedores, consumidores y comunidades

La *Hoja de ruta* tiene el objeto de explicitar la contribución que puede aportar el turismo a los actuales esfuerzos mundiales por hacer frente a la crisis económica mediante la creación de empleo y la promoción de los intercambios comerciales. Posiciona al *turismo* como instrumento primordial para la creación de empleo y la recuperación económica, y sienta los puntos siguientes:

- ***El turismo es uno de los primeros creadores de empleo del mundo***
- ***El turismo es un sector primordial de exportación***
- ***El turismo es un agente esencial de desarrollo***
- ***El turismo puede ayudar en la transición a una economía verde***

3. La vía hacia delante: promover la *Hoja de ruta*

Para promover la *Hoja de ruta*, la OMT colaborará estrechamente con sus Estados Miembros para llevar a cabo una serie de iniciativas concebidas con el fin de ayudar a reforzar el apoyo al turismo como contribuyente esencial de la recuperación económica, del desarrollo sostenible **y, sobre todo, de la creación de empleo**. El objetivo principal es promover la *Hoja de ruta* ante los principales responsables en los planos nacional, regional y mundial.

Las actividades nacionales se centrarán en los ministerios de economía, comunicación, medio ambiente, empleo, finanzas, comercio e inversión, así como en los gobiernos locales, las instituciones financieras, los organismos de desarrollo, los parlamentos y los principales medios de comunicación.

Las actividades regionales y mundiales se dirigirán a los grandes interlocutores como la Unión Africana (UA), la Liga Árabe, Mercosur, la Unión Europea (UE), la Asociación de Naciones de Asia Sudoriental (ASEAN), la Unión Norteamericana (UNA) y la Cooperación Económica de Asia y el Pacífico (APEC), la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE), y también el G8+G5, la agrupación BRIC (Brasil, Rusia, India y China), el G77 y el G20². Se prestará atención asimismo al sistema de las Naciones Unidas y a las instituciones financieras internacionales.

La historia demuestra que los mayores retos ofrecen también las mayores oportunidades. Los líderes mundiales de hoy están trabajando juntos de formas que habrían sido inimaginables en ningún momento del pasado, para coordinar y colaborar en sus economías, en su respuesta al cambio climático y en sus programas de desarrollo.

La crisis actual ofrece varias oportunidades al sector del turismo:

- Reforzar la capacidad de recuperación y la importancia económica del turismo mediante una inversión más fuerte en recursos humanos, en un mejor conocimiento de los mercados y en tecnología e innovación;
- Maximizar el valor del turismo en los países en desarrollo, en muchos de los cuales el sector es una de las primeras fuentes de empleo y de ingresos en divisas;
- Replantearse los modelos actuales de crecimiento y asumir los principios del desarrollo sostenible y la transformación en economía verde;
- Intensificar la cooperación entre todos los agentes, así como en el plano regional y subregional.

Como organización central en el campo del turismo, la OMT promoverá esta *Hoja de ruta*, e invitará a todos los responsables principales de los sectores público y privado y de las organizaciones de la industria a unirse y a contribuir a trazar la vía hacia delante.

² A modo de ejemplo inicial, el Ministro de Turismo de Sudáfrica ha propuesto liderar una iniciativa de varios miembros de la OMT encaminada a reforzar el posicionamiento del turismo como medio primordial de creación de empleo y recuperación económica en el programa de actividades del G20.

La naturaleza impredecible y mundial de la actual recesión económica, unida a los desafíos a largo plazo del cambio climático y de la reducción de la pobreza, tendrá repercusiones importantes, si bien aún no totalmente claras, en los consumidores y en los mercados. Pueden surgir nuevos modelos operativos y sin duda se producirán cambios en los mercados.

En estos últimos decenios, nuestro sector ha experimentado varios retrocesos, se ha enfrentado a graves crisis naturales y causadas por el hombre, y en todos ellos ha demostrado una capacidad de recuperación notable y ha salido fortalecido y saneado. En realidad, el ritmo efectivo de crecimiento ha sido ligeramente superior a la previsión del estudio de la OMT titulado *Turismo: Panorama 2020*. Entre 1995 y 2008, las llegadas de turistas internacionales experimentaron un crecimiento anual medio de 4,3%, frente al 4,1% que se había pronosticado³.

Las perspectivas a largo plazo siguen siendo positivas si el sector es capaz de enfrentarse a sus desafíos de manera coordinada y eficaz. La demanda seguirá siendo fuerte gracias a la expansión continua de los países emergentes —en calidad de destinos y de mercados emisores—, así como a la creciente inversión pública y privada en el sector y, sobre todo, al hecho de que los viajes de negocios y de ocio se han convertido en parte integrante de la forma de vida de los consumidores y de la operaciones de las empresas en el mundo globalizado de nuestros días.

³ Entre las actividades de su programa de trabajo, la OMT está preparando una importante actualización de su pronóstico a largo plazo con el proyecto *El turismo hacia 2030*.

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Hoja de ruta para la recuperación

El turismo y los viajes

***Un instrumento primordial para
la creación de empleo y la recuperación económica***

Septiembre 2009

Hoja de ruta para la recuperación

La hoja de ruta para la recuperación está dirigida a los líderes mundiales y a los responsables de la toma de decisiones que tratan de estimular la economía mundial, apoyar a los países en desarrollo y acelerar la transición a una economía verde.

Aspira a mostrar cómo puede contribuir el sector *turístico* a las medidas que se están adoptando para responder a la crisis, mediante la creación de empleo, la promoción del comercio y el fomento del desarrollo.

La *hoja de ruta para la recuperación* es un conjunto de directrices estratégicas para dar apoyo a la economía mundial y al sector turístico, centradas en tres campos de acción interrelacionados: capacidad de recuperación, estímulo y economía verde.

El presente documento ha sido elaborado por la OMT, que pretende lograr compromisos de colaboración para su evaluación y puesta en práctica.

¿Por qué el turismo y los viajes¹?

El turismo es...

Una de las mayores fuentes de empleo en el mundo.

- Genera más de 75 millones de puestos de trabajo directos en todo el mundo².
- Ofrece una vía de acceso rápido al mundo del trabajo, en especial para los jóvenes y las mujeres de comunidades urbanas y rurales.

Un importante sector de exportación, en particular para los países en desarrollo.

- El 30% de las exportaciones mundiales de servicios (1 billón de dólares estadounidenses al año)³.
- Hasta el 45% del total de las exportaciones de servicios de los países en desarrollo³.

Un factor clave de estímulo y transformación hacia una economía verde.

- Contribuye, directamente y por su efecto multiplicador, a la creación de empleo en el mundo y a la recuperación económica.
- Responsable de una parte relativamente baja (5%) de las emisiones de CO₂⁴, el turismo está bien posicionado y comprometido para reducir progresivamente sus emisiones de carbono y contribuir a la transformación de la economía en una economía verde.

¹ Por "turismo y viajes" se entiende un amplio abanico de negocios y actividades de turismo internacional y nacional que engloba el transporte, el alojamiento y otros servicios afines. En adelante, se utilizará el término "turismo".

² A partir de la limitada información proveniente de los países que disponen de datos, la OMT estima la contribución global del turismo al empleo en torno al 6-7% del total mundial de puestos de trabajo (directos e indirectos). Según el Consejo Mundial de Viajes y Turismo (WTTC), se calcula que, en 2009, el turismo genera 77 millones de puestos de trabajo directos en el sector (el 2,7% del empleo total) y alrededor de 220 millones de puestos de trabajo directos e indirectos (el 7,6% del empleo total).

³ Organización Mundial del Turismo (OMT), www.unwto.org.

⁴ Organización Mundial del Turismo (OMT), www.unwto.org. En comparación con otros sectores como el uso de la tierra y la silvicultura (24%) o la industria manufacturera y la construcción (13%).

Resumen de las recomendaciones

I CAPACIDAD DE RECUPERACIÓN

16. Centrarse en la conservación de los puestos de trabajo y en el apoyo al sector
17. Entender el mercado y reaccionar con rapidez
18. Impulsar las asociaciones y la «competencia cooperativa»
19. Fomentar las innovaciones y el uso de la tecnología
20. Fortalecer el apoyo regional e interregional

II. ESTIMULACIÓN

21. Crear nuevos empleos, en particular en las pequeñas y medianas empresas (PYME)
22. Integrar el *turismo* en los programas de estímulo y de infraestructura
23. Replantear los obstáculos fiscales y de visados que dificulten el crecimiento
24. Mejorar la promoción del *turismo* y capitalizar los grandes eventos
25. Incluir el *turismo* en la ayuda para el comercio y en el apoyo al desarrollo

III. ECONOMÍA VERDE

26. Fomentar la creación de puestos de trabajo y la capacitación para una economía verde
27. Responder con eficacia al cambio climático
28. Incluir el *turismo* en todas las estrategias de la economía verde
29. Incentivar la inversión en infraestructura *turística* verde
30. Promover una cultura de *turismo* verde entre proveedores, consumidores y comunidades

Recomendaciones

I. Capacidad de recuperación

1. Centrarse en la conservación de los puestos de trabajo y en el apoyo al sector

El *turismo* es una actividad económica que proporciona trabajo a millones de personas en el sector y en otras muchas actividades relacionadas con él. El personal bien formado está capacitado para moverse a diferentes empleos. En general, el *turismo* crece con más rapidez que el PIB, duplicando cada 10 o 15 años los puestos de trabajo creados. Durante la recesión es importante que los gobiernos y el sector adopten medidas para conservar al núcleo de sus trabajadores y mantener la calidad de la formación. Las estrategias correspondientes deberían reconocer las especiales necesidades de las PYME, en particular en los países menos adelantados.

2. Entender el mercado y reaccionar con rapidez

Vigilar estrechamente los cambios de tendencia, analizarlos, y reaccionar a ellos con rapidez ayudará al sector a mantener su competitividad. Para ello será preciso aumentar la colaboración, la investigación y el intercambio de información entre los sectores público y privado, las organizaciones internacionales y las instituciones docentes, así como elaborar nuevas herramientas y análisis de datos. Sería conveniente además alentar la creación de redes de intercambio de conocimientos turísticos a escala nacional, regional e internacional. La OMT y otras organizaciones deberían reforzar los vínculos y los sistemas de apoyo de esas redes.

3. Impulsar las asociaciones y la «competencia cooperativa»

Cuando sea posible, se deberían reforzar las asociaciones publico-privadas, para ayudar a conservar y crear puestos de trabajo, a racionalizar los procedimientos, a simplificar las regulaciones y a aumentar la productividad. Este refuerzo puede ampliarse, más allá del marco del *turismo* tradicional, a los ámbitos de la economía, del empleo y del desarrollo, maximizando las sinergias entre agentes nacionales, regionales e internacionales. En la transformación hacia una economía verde y la reducción de los obstáculos que dificultan el crecimiento, los competidores compartirán a menudo los mismos objetivos.

4. Fomentar las innovaciones y el uso de la tecnología

La innovación puede ser un factor esencial para ayudar al *turismo* a adaptarse a nuevas condiciones económicas sostenibles. Entre los ámbitos en los que se podría plantear una revisión y una actuación figuran los sistemas fronterizos, los visados electrónicos, la ordenación del tránsito aéreo y terrestre, el control de la congestión, la reducción de los residuos y la aplicación de tecnologías de eficiencia energética. Debería alentarse a todos los agentes a adoptar prácticas innovadoras y a incrementar la aplicación de la tecnología. Podría prestarse especial atención a prestar apoyo financiero y capacitación institucional a los países en desarrollo y a las PYME para que puedan beneficiarse de avances asequibles en tecnología y dar así un salto en su desarrollo.

5. Fortalecer el apoyo regional e interregional

Los vínculos geográficos tienen un valor especial. Durante las recesiones la demanda tiende a aproximarse al lugar de residencia habitual, por lo que los incentivos nacionales, que entonces se regionalizan, permiten distribuir los costos. Lo mismo se puede aplicar a la promoción dentro y fuera de la región. Buenos ejemplos de la viabilidad de los planteamientos regionales son los aplicados a la eliminación de visados, la liberalización del transporte, de moderación de los impuestos y la reducción de la saturación del tránsito aéreo.

II. Estímulos

6. Crear nuevos empleos, en particular en las PYME

Es particularmente importante para la viabilidad económica de las empresas turísticas, especialmente para las PYME, y para la creación de nuevos puestos de trabajo facilitar líneas de crédito (incluidos los microcréditos), planes especiales de financiación, préstamos y formación, ya sea mediante mecanismos específicos del sector o dando prioridad al *turismo* en los programas generales. Cabe considerar programas de enseñanza y formación profesional específicos para el sector turístico, con especial hincapié en las TIC, los productos y los servicios verdes y las actividades de apoyo a la calidad.

7. Integrar el *turismo* en los programas de estímulo y de infraestructura

El *turismo* debería ser un elemento fundamental de los programas de estímulo: ámbitos como la reducción de impuestos, la promoción de las exportaciones, el apoyo al empleo o los cursos de reciclaje también pueden beneficiar al sector. El *turismo* puede beneficiarse en gran medida de la inversión en infraestructura por su efecto directo en la creación de empleo en la construcción y otros sectores afines. Dentro de esta categoría figuran los trenes de alta velocidad, las instalaciones portuarias y aeroportuarias, las estaciones y las principales autopistas, así como la modernización con criterios de sostenibilidad ambiental y la adaptación al clima de hoteles, atracciones turísticas y otras instalaciones.

8. Replantear los obstáculos fiscales y de visados que dificulten el crecimiento

Se deberían examinar con objetividad todos los impuestos turísticos para detectar los que gravan excesivamente a los viajeros o a las empresas. Los gobiernos podrían estudiar su reducción temporal cuando sea difícil su reducción permanente. Cuando fuera factible, se podría plantear la exención del pago por los visados, la eliminación o la simplificación de los requisitos para su obtención y la introducción de visados electrónicos. También se pueden considerar los beneficios de la colaboración intrarregional en la facilitación de los viajes.

9. Mejorar la promoción del *turismo* y capitalizar los grandes eventos

Las estrategias de *turismo*, deberían diversificarse y evitar la dependencia de una actividad o mercado particular. Los visitantes extranjeros son exportaciones de alto valor y deben considerarse en las actividades de promoción de las exportaciones. Los programas de marketing deben tener en cuenta los cambios subyacentes de la demanda para ofrecer una mejor relación calidad/precio, así como las realidades de la competencia. Asumir el cambio en las preferencias de los consumidores que se decantan por Internet y los sistemas multimedia es primordial. Debería explorarse la forja de asociaciones y la cooperación regional para mejorar la promoción del *turismo*. Deberían investigarse también las ventajas que ofrece una mayor participación en los grandes eventos (sobre todo los deportivos).

10. Incluir el *turismo* en la ayuda para el comercio y en el apoyo al desarrollo

Convendría que los agentes del *turismo* colaborasen con los organismos de ayuda para apoyar las nuevas disposiciones de Ayuda para el Comercio de la Ronda de Desarrollo de Doha, la asistencia específica a los países en desarrollo de las iniciativas del G20 para los países menos adelantados y otras iniciativas similares y los posibles fondos que se asignen a un desarrollo limpio y a la adaptación de emisiones de carbono a raíz de las negociaciones sobre el clima de la CMNUCC⁵. La ayuda al desarrollo para el *turismo* podría emplearse para la capacitación, la transferencia de tecnología, y la creación de infraestructura y empleos verdes.

⁵ Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático.

III. Economía verde

11. Fomentar la creación de puestos de trabajo y la capacitación para una economía verde

En un mundo que evoluciona hacia una reducción progresiva de las emisiones de carbono – objetivo fundamental de la economía verde –, el *turismo* puede ser un agente motor del cambio al promover y ofrecer empleo en actividades sostenibles. La clave estará en identificar programas verdes y nuevos puestos de trabajo asociados a ellos, así como en facilitar una formación apropiada. Debería prestarse especial atención a buscar el modo de llevar este objetivo a los países en desarrollo de una forma asequible y viable. También son importantes la formación profesional, el «voluntarismo» y la armonización con los programas formativos generales de turismo verde.

12. Responder con eficacia al cambio climático

La comunidad del turismo debe seguir defendiendo la neutralidad en carbono y afrontando los compromisos aprobados por las partes de la CMNUCC para responder al cambio climático. Las medidas deben incluir incentivos para la adaptación, además de un apoyo financiero sustancial y la transferencia de tecnología de bajo coste a las economías más pobres. Todas las estrategias y la financiación asociada deberían ayudar al sector a ir utilizando cada vez más transportes y hospedaje con bajas emisiones de carbono y a emplear tecnología verde.

13. Incluir el *turismo* en todas las estrategias de la economía verde

El *turismo* debería integrarse en las leyes/normativas internacionales, nacionales y regionales que incluyen y alientan estrategias de la economía verde. Debería además ocupar un lugar destacado en las estrategias de empleo verde. La planificación de inversiones y adquisiciones verdes y los programas en favor de la eficiencia energética y de las energías renovables también deben abarcar el *turismo*.

14. Incentivar la inversión en infraestructura *turística* verde

El transporte y las edificaciones son objetivos primordiales de las políticas y de las inversiones verdes. Las infraestructuras de transporte, tales como autopistas, trenes de alta velocidad, puertos y sistemas de gestión del tránsito aéreo, están muy orientadas a las necesidades del *turismo*, aunque no se reconozca directamente y convendría que esta relación fuera explícita. En cuanto a las soluciones arquitectónicas sostenibles y a prueba de variaciones climáticas, suelen centrarse en los edificios públicos, pero también podrían y deberían aplicarse a los hoteles, los atractivos turísticos y otras instalaciones turísticas.

15. Promover una cultura de *turismo* verde entre proveedores, consumidores y comunidades

Teniendo en cuenta los considerables efectos del consumo en la sociedad moderna, el gran reto será el de aumentar la sensibilidad de la población con respecto al *turismo* sostenible y estimular el cambio hacia nuevos modelos de producción y de consumo de la economía verde. Es necesario introducir ajustes en las expectativas del público y lograr una amplia participación del sector en programas de certificación ambiental creíbles. El *turismo* no sólo debe ser líder del cambio de productos y servicios, sino también un faro para ese cambio a través de sus intensas actividades de comunicación. Se trata de un objetivo que se puede incorporar a los mensajes internos y externos.

A N E X O 1

Informe sobre las actividades del Comité de Reactivación del Turismo (2009)

1. Background

In October 2008, the UNWTO Executive Council confirmed that despite its long-term confidence in the resilience of tourism, the economic downturn was having a major impact on tourism demand. Recognizing that many challenges lay ahead in 2009, when the economic slowdown was expected to be more widely felt and consumers were expected to further cut back on their travel expenditures, the Council agreed in its 84th Session:

- to create a Resilience Committee open to all of its public and private sector Members;
- to support this work with state-of-the-art information, with special focus on air transport and major origin markets;
- to provide UNWTO Members with ICT-based up-to-date information on these impacts and emerging response initiatives.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the Tourism Resilience Committee is to support UNWTO Members to better endure the challenges posed by the current economic slowdown via:

- close market monitoring of the impact of the current economic slowdown on the tourism sector;
- sharing experiences on the measures and tools being used by public and private sectors to stimulate tourism demand;
- the reinforcement of public/private partnerships, which are crucial in times of crisis;
- not losing sight of the longer-term challenges posed by climate change and sustainable development.

3. Constitution

3.1 The Committee is open to the participation of all UNWTO Members.

3.2 UNWTO invites other organizations that are considered key players in the sector (such as the European Commission, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)) to take part in the Committee meetings.

4. Functioning

4.1 The Committee meets in its full constituency.

4.2 The Committee has a Core Group with the following responsibilities:

- Give guidance to the work of the Committee;
- Contribute to the documents/reports to be prepared for the full meetings of the Committee.

4.3 The Committee's Core Group is constituted by the following members:

UNWTO full Members	Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan and South Africa.
UNWTO Affiliate Members	Accor, Amadeus, AMFORT, Brazilian Confederation of Convention and Visitors Bureaux, Iberia, Federal Association of the German Tourism Industry (BTW) and Visa
Invited global or regional stakeholders (of which some are UNWTO Affiliate Members)	European Commission (EC), Arab Tourism Organization, Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), International Congress & Conventions Association (ICCA), International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO), International Hotel and Restaurants Association (IH&RA), Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

Note: Both the meetings of the Tourism Resilience Committee as well as the participation in the Core Group meetings are open to all Members who wish to take part (contact trc@unwto.org).

5. Tourism Resilience Committee Meetings

The Committee has met on two occasions up to date.

- The 1st Meeting of the Tourism Resilience Committee was held on the 28th of January 2009 in Madrid (Spain) during FITUR. The first meeting aimed at reviewing the impact of the unfolding crisis on tourism and the measures being implemented at national level to overcome the crisis. (The full report of the 1st Meeting of the Tourism Resilience Committee is available at www.unwto.org/trc/meetings/meetings.php?lang=E).
- The 2nd Meeting of the Tourism Resilience Committee was held on the 13th of March 2009 in Berlin (Germany) during ITB. On this occasion, participants shared updated market information on the impact of the global economic crisis on tourism, as well as examples of stimulus packages aimed at the tourism sector developed by the public (Thailand, China, Bahamas and Maldives) and private sectors (Federal Association of the German Tourism Industry – BTW). A major focus of the 2nd Meeting of the TRC was the presentation of a draft *Roadmap for Recovery*. The Committee concluded that the role tourism can play in stimulating economic growth and recovery has not yet been fully recognized and that if the sector works together closely, tourism can be one of the first drivers of economic recovery.

The Committee agreed that these points should be reflected in the *Roadmap*. The Committee also called all governments to join and promote the *Roadmap for Recovery*. (The full report of the 2nd Meeting of the Tourism Resilience Committee available at www.unwto.org/trc/meetings/meetings.php?lang=E).

After the announcement and debate on the *Roadmap for Recovery* at ITB Berlin, an intensive work programme has been carried out by the Tourism Resilience Committee. In this framework, the Core Group of the TRC met in Madrid on the 21st of May 2009 to review and guide the final document of the *Roadmap for Recovery*, scheduled to be officially presented at the UNWTO General Assembly in Kazakhstan (2-9 October 2009).

- A 3rd Meeting of the Tourism Resilience Committee will be held on the 8th of October 2009 in Astana, Kazakhstan (on the occasion of UNWTO's General Assembly). The meeting aims at reviewing the work of the Tourism Resilience Committee to date and setting guidelines for its future activities, focusing particularly on the dissemination and promotion of the Roadmap for Recovery.

6. Activities

Under the guidance of the Tourism Resilience Committee, the following activities have been undertaken:

- Interim Updates of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer to complement regular market monitoring: The *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* is UNWTO's short term market monitoring report. It is published three times a year (January, June and October). To provide a more updated insight into the market situation, the Secretariat prepared two Interim Updates of the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* in 2009 (in April and early October);
- Online crisis information platform: As the crisis emerged, UNWTO created an online resource in its website (www.unwto.org/trc) to provide updated market intelligence, information on the crisis activities and initiatives being implemented by the Organization, as well as comprehensive information on crisis response measures implemented by individual countries;
- Online market intelligence platform: UNWTO has been developing a business intelligence solution which will allow UNWTO Members (on an exclusive basis) to access monthly information on key indicators covering destinations as well as sources markets (this new platform – the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* online – will be presented to Members during the 3rd Meeting of the Tourism Resilience Committee);
- Collaboration with stakeholders such as Amadeus, Visa International and Booz & Company to provide new indicators and market intelligence on the impact of the crisis on tourism demand. This includes data on air transport effective and forecast bookings, analysis of the impact of the crisis on the air transport and travel expenditure (information available at www.unwto.org/trc/meetings/meetings.php?lang=E).

- Database on national stimulus measures for the tourism sector: This online database includes information on over 60 countries which have implemented tourism stimulus measures in the following areas: fiscal, monetary, employment and human resources, marketing, travel facilitation, public/private partnerships, regional cooperation and environment. The database is available online (www.unwto.org/trc) and is updated on a weekly basis. UNWTO has also produced a report on *Tourism and Economic Stimulus*. The report is also available online (www.unwto.org/trc) and is updated on a monthly basis. (For detailed information on stimulus measures by country see Annex 2 – Stimulus Measures for Tourism Recovery by Country);
- The Roadmap for Recovery: After an intensive work programme, lead by the Core Working Group of the Tourism Resilience Committee under the Chairmanship of HE the Australian Ambassador to Spain, Mr. Noel Campbell, a *Roadmap for Recovery* has been developed as a key output of the work of the Tourism Resilience Committee. The *Roadmap*, which will be officially presented at the General Assembly, sets out 15 recommendations based on three interlocking action areas: **Resilience – Stimulus – Green Economy** – aimed at supporting the tourism sector and the global economy.
- Advocacy of Tourism as a key driver of job creation and economic recovery: In this respect, a message stressing the potential for tourism to support short-term stimulus actions as well as the longer term transformation to a Green Economy, coherent with development and climate imperatives was promoted on the occasion of the G20 meeting in April 2009 (see www.unwto.org/G20.php?lang=E). Initiatives of this kind will continue to be developed with the aim of advocating tourism's role as a key driver of job creation and economic recovery and the promotion of *Roadmap for Recovery*.

ANEXO 2

Medidas de estimulación para la reactivación del turismo, por países¹

1. About this document

The current document aims to provide a summary of the response measures developed by countries around the world to mitigate the impact of the global economic crisis on tourism.

The report is part of the activities of the UNWTO Tourism Resilience Committee and includes information on over 70 countries worldwide. The information has been collected through questionnaires, sent to all UNWTO Member States by the UNWTO Secretariat during the months of March, April and August 2009, as well as through continuous research of online sources.

More detailed information on stimulus measures by country is available in UNWTO's dedicated crisis webpage (www.unwto.org/trc). This information is updated on a regular basis. Countries which are not featured in this assessment or in UNWTO webpage on 'Response Actions' are kindly invited to send the corresponding information to the Secretariat (trc@unwto.org).

2. Crisis Measures

The measures, for which information is available, have been classified into eight broad categories.

1. Fiscal measures
2. Monetary measures
3. Human resources/employment measures
4. Marketing measures
5. Travel facilitation
6. Public/private partnerships (PPPs)
7. Regional cooperation
8. Environmental measures

As it is clear from the Table 1 below, most countries have implemented measures in the areas of marketing, and most specifically aiming at the domestic market, and public/private partnerships, as these are the areas where national tourism administrations/organizations have a direct and immediate mandate and can act more rapidly. It also shows that especially in times of crisis, the cooperation and synergy between public authorities and the private sector is highly valuable.

A significant number of countries have also developed measures of fiscal and/or monetary nature recognizing the necessity for tourism businesses to access credit and increase their liquidity in order to keep their operations and maintain jobs.

Finally, travel facilitation measures such as applying visa on arrival, decreasing the cost of visas or, in some cases even, exempting visa requirements for a certain number of source markets are major steps towards the resilience of the sector, and the economic recovery at large.

¹ Information collected up to 31st August 2009.

Table 1. Summary of Stimulus Measures for Tourism Recovery by Country

REGIONS	FISCAL	MONETARY	HUMAN RESOURCES/ EMPLOYMENT	MARKETING	TRAVEL FACILITATION	PUBLIC/ PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS	REGIONAL COOPERATION	ENVIRONMENT
AFRICA								
Morocco	X	X		X		X		
South Africa	X	X		X		X		
Tunisia		X	X	X				
AMERICAS								
Argentina	X	X		X		X		
Antigua and Barbuda	X		X	X				
Aruba				X				
Bahamas	X	X		X		X		
Barbados		X	X	X				
Bolivia		X	X	X		X		
Brazil	X	X		X	X	X		
Canada		X	X	X		X		X
Costa Rica		X		X		X	X	
Dominican Republic				X		X	X	
Grenada	X		X					
Jamaica	X	X	X	X		X		
Mexico	X	X		X				
Nicaragua					X		X	
Saint Lucia				X				
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	X	X						
United States of America	X			X		X		
Uruguay	X			X		X		

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Australia				X		X		
Brunei Darussalam			X	X		X		
Bhutan	X			X		X		
Cambodia	X			X	X	X	X	
China	X	X		X		X		X
Fiji				X	X	X		
Hong-Kong (China)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
India	X	X		X		X	X	
Indonesia		X	X	X		X	X	
Iran, Islamic Republic of		X		X	X	X		
Japan				X		X		
Macao (China)	X	X		X		X	X	
Malaysia		X		X				
Maldives	X	X		X		X		
Nepal		X	X	X		X		
New Zealand		X	X	X			X	X
Pakistan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Philippines	X		X	X		X		
Republic of Korea		X	X	X		X		X
Singapore		X	X	X		X	X	
Sri Lanka		X		X			X	
Thailand	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Vietnam	X	X	X	X		X	X	

EUROPE

Austria		X		X		X		
Belgium		X	X			X		
Bulgaria		X		X		X		
Croatia	X			X		X		
Cyprus	X	X		X				
France	X	X	X			X		

Germany	X	X		X		X		
Greece	X	X	X		X			
Hungary		X		X				
Israel	X		X	X		X	X	
Italy		X		X		X	X	
Netherlands	X			X		X		X
Norway	X	X						
Portugal	X	X		X				
Slovakia					X			
Slovenia		X		X				
Spain	X	X	X					X
Tajikistan	X							
Turkey						X		
MIDDLE EAST								
Egypt	X		X	X		X		
Jordan	X			X		X	X	
Oman				X		X		
Qatar		X						
Saudi Arabia	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Syrian Arab Republic	X			X		X		
Yemen	X							

Table 2. Stimulus Measures for the Tourism Sector by Country

Country	Crisis Measures
AFRICA	
South Africa	South Africa is focusing on the development and support of tourism small business, development of tourism and general infrastructure and vigorous marketing aiming at taking full advantage of the 2010 FIFA Football World Cup.
Morocco	<p>A new plan (<i>CAP 2009</i>) has been built end 2008 aiming at keeping Morocco attractive to tourists and deal with the impact of the crisis. The <i>CAP 2009</i> has six main axis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase inbound tourism by aiming at market that might be less impacted by the crisis such as Eastern Europe and the Middle East; ◆ Reinforce the positioning of Morocco abroad; ◆ Reinforce and develop domestic tourism; ◆ Improve the experience of tourists visiting the country and increase their level of loyalty; ◆ Maintain the dynamism of tourism investment; ◆ Reinforce the follow-up of the market through the constitution on a 'surveillance unit' and of the work of the Tourism Observatory. <p>The plan is funded by an increase of 10% (US\$ 13.5 million) in the 2009 budget. Marrakech, Fes, Casablanca and Agadir have been identified as priority regions and two new tourism areas set to be opened (Saïdia and Mazagan). Promotion will aim at markets in Europe, the Gulf region and in Russia and have a strong public/private cooperation basis.</p>
Tunisia	<p>Specific tourism response to the economic crisis includes additional promotional and advertising budget, particularly targeting the European market. In addition, the measures seek the preservation of historical areas, development of products such as cultural festivals and golf courses, as well as the strengthening of international air transport and the establishment of a programme to upgrade hotels.</p> <p>Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Additional budget for promotion; ◆ Strengthening of the international air transport to Tozeur and the domestic air transport to Tabarka and Tozeur; ◆ Establishment of a programme to upgrade hotels whilst carrying out the modernization of vocational training centres in coordination with all parties involved; ◆ Conclusion of the ongoing projects and golf courses; ◆ Increase in the use of historic and archaeological sites and promote large-scale international festivals; ◆ Improvement of the aesthetics of tourist resorts and the cleanliness of their environment.

AMERICAS

Argentina	<p>As part of its stimulus package to face the global economic downturn, Argentina has developed no-interest loans to boost domestic tourism. A cooperation agreement has been established between SECTUR, the chamber of credit and debit cards and the business associations of the sector. Through this agreement 500 tourism business including hotels, travel agencies and restaurants, will accept credit card payments with between 3 and 6 instalments without interest. This measure aims at favouring purchases in and toward domestic destinations. Simultaneously, SECTUR will promote the enterprises and products adhered to the agreement.</p> <p>Argentina is also giving fiscal and monetary incentives to the sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In the framework of the programme <i>Blanqueo de capitales</i> those who earmark funds to all types of investments in tourism will benefit from a tax rate differential of 1%; ◆ In order to encourage the refurbishment and extension works in the hotel sector, the National Bank has made available a soft credit line of 300 million pesos (US\$ 78 million).
Antigua and Barbuda	<p>Antigua and Barbuda has implemented an Emergency Economic Plan, launched in November 2008, which seeks to provide some relief to the tourism sector in meeting the cost of its operations, and to protect workers in the industry from being laid off. Some measures include discounting of electricity bills for hotels, establishment of joint marketing strategy and preferential tax rates.</p>
Aruba	<p>As a measure to face the crisis, the Aruban Tourism Authority has decided to reinforce marketing in North America, South America and Europe, mainly by the use of online promotional tools. In this direction, more money has been allocated to increase online promotion. A specialised company will provide 24 hours chat. Aruba is promoting itself in Twitter and Facebook.</p>
Bahamas	<p>The following measures have been taken to stimulate travel to The Bahamas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reduction in airfares by lowering or eliminating airport taxes (a programme of discount in airfares officially effective July 2009 for the island of Grand Bahama, which will be extended later this year to Nassau and Family Islands); ◆ Strengthening of the Bahamas tourism industry via infrastructure and capital projects: infrastructure and capital projects include redeveloping the Lynden Pindling International Airport and dredging the Nassau Harbour, which will allow the region to receive the world's largest cruise ships, capable of accommodating 5.000 passengers. Likewise, In May 2009, the Government announced its commitment to maintain capital expenditures for its major projects, such as the New Providence Roads Project, the Nassau Harbour Project the redevelopment of the old City Market site and the upgrade of Marsh Harbour International Airport; ◆ Creation of an all inclusive destination concept with buy-in from all major tourism suppliers; ◆ Special focus on the North American market capitalizing thus on its proximity to the Bahamas: the aim to is obtain lower air fares and increase airlift by decreasing or eliminating airport costs inclusive of customs and immigration overtime charges. Measures also include a strategy to add new USA gateways, taking advantage of US immigration and customs pre-clearance facilities in New Providence and Grand Bahama. Regarding marketing and promotions, the Ministry has launched advertising campaigns in major markets such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Washington, to promote the country and limit the drop in tourist arrivals.

Barbados	<p>The Government of Barbados has agreed to provide BDS\$ 15 million (US\$ 7.5 million) to assist failing properties and to maintain employment in the tourism sector. The Tourism Industry Relief Product (TIRP), together with the BDS\$ 20 million (US\$ 10 million) that was already made available to the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA), aim to mitigate the worse aspects of the current economic crisis as a result of their marketing budget increase.</p>
Bolivia	<p>Bolivia aims to strength community enterprises and its initiatives by providing support to organizational and administrative management. Likewise, it will continue reinforcing promotion and marketing of Bolivia as a destination for rural tourism.</p> <p>Response measures in the area of tourism include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strengthening the community enterprises by providing organizational and administrative management support; ◆ Promotion and marketing of Bolivia as a destination for rural tourism. <p>Transversal policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Natural resource, environmental and cultural management; ◆ Income redistribution policy (<i>Distribución de la Renta Dignidad</i>).
Brasil	<p>Brazil has a strategy for its short and long term international promotion detailed in its International Tourism Marketing Plan (<i>Plano Aquarela</i>). Its main goal is to build a new image of Brazil as a tourism destination, a country and a market. That long-term strategy has not changed but has been adapted to the new scenarios presented by the current crisis. One of the most relevant measures adopted by Brazil to deal with the crisis is the improvement of the promotional actions in the neighbour countries of South America through a 20% increase in the amounts invested in promotion and marketing in those countries for 2009.</p> <p>Brazil has adopted several initiatives to promote international, neighbouring and domestic tourism, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promotional campaigns <i>Brazil Now and Brazil Sensational!</i>: Thanks to the coordinated work of Embratur (the Brazilian Tourism Organization) with the private sector, the promotional campaign <i>Brazil Now</i> was launched in April 2009, offering packages with special prices for South American tour operators. In view of the success of this campaign, entirely developed through internet, Embratur is preparing a second phase by reinforcing negotiations with tourism companies and organizations and including new destinations and markets. Conversely, there is an additional effort to enhance communication and promotion of Brazilian tourism destinations around the world through the ongoing <i>Brazil Sensational!</i> campaign, which uses Internet as the main communication tool. ◆ Travel facilitation and decrease of minimum prices for international flights: The Brazilian government has decided not to create any kind of fee that may impose barriers for international tourism flow. Within this framework, the Tourism Minister of Brazil announced on June 2009, in his visit to Colombia, the suppression of passport, visa and vaccination requirement for Colombian nationals, as an initiative to incentive neighbouring tourism. Likewise, the Civil Aviation National Agency (ANAC) has approved the gradual cut of the minimum prices, previously established for all international flights initiated from Brazil. Up until April, these prices have been gradually cuts until they are completely extinguished. It must be highlighted, however, that this fare has not been applied to South American countries since 2008.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Incentives to domestic tourism: The Ministry of Tourism has intensified the advertising campaigns to encourage Brazilians to travel inside Brazil all year round, particularly in those days before holydays. The Caixa Econômica Federal, one of the state Banks in Brazil, released a special line of credit to finance domestic trips with interests lower than those of the market, allowing a 10 months term. The goal is to provide easy credit to heat up the domestic tourism market. Since 2007, the Ministry launched a programme to promote travelling for retired people, in collaboration with tour operators and Brazilian travel agencies, with discounts for several destinations during the low season.
Canada	<p>The government of Canada has allocated CAD\$ 800 million (US\$ 726 million) in the federal budget to support the tourism and travel sector, provide stimulus to the industry in these challenging economic times and address several longstanding competitiveness issues. Among the initiatives for the tourism sector are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CAD\$ 40 million (US\$ 36 million) over two years to the Canadian Tourism Commission: CAD\$ 20 million (US\$ 18 million) for domestic marketing and CAD\$ 20 million (US\$ 18 million) for emerging markets. According to the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC), the money will be targeted into partnered marketing programs that will effectively increase tourism revenues to the small- and medium-sized businesses- the backbone of Canada's tourism economy; ◆ CAD\$ 100 million (US\$ 91 million) for marquee festivals and events over two years; ◆ CAD\$ 150 million (US\$ 136 million) for Canada's national parks system over two years: CAD\$ 75 million (US\$ 68 million) for visitor facilities and CAD\$ 75 million (US\$ 68 million) for national historic sites; ◆ CAD\$ 25 million (US\$ 23 million) to create new hiking trails across the country; ◆ CAD\$ 407 million (US\$ 370 million) for improvements to passenger rail service in the Montreal to Toronto corridor operated by VIA Rail; <p>Additional funding of projects which will assist in the development of vital tourism infrastructure include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CAD\$ 24 million (US\$ 22 million) over two years for cruise ship tourism; ◆ CAD\$ 60 million (US\$ 54 million) over two years for local and community cultural and heritage institutions, i.e. theatres and museums; ◆ CAD\$ 140 million (US\$ 127 million) over five years for Northern Economic Development, a substantial portion of which will be directed towards tourism projects.
Costa Rica	<p>Costa Rica has created an Internet-based digital map for tourists. According to the National Chamber of Tourism (CANATUR) this new service would provide information on Costa Rica's borders and roads, main tourism destinations and available services to a global audience of potential tourists. The initiative seek to develop a more suitable and accessible product to tourists using the Internet to get information about destinations. Conversely, CANATUR has joined forces with the private sector and the Costa Rican Institute for Tourism (ICT) to strengthen sustainable tourism. Under this initiative CANATUR will create the Department for Tourism Sustainability, to assess and unify companies that have or will obtain a Tourism Sustainability Certificate (CTS), as well as to provide the private sector with training and technical assistance on management for social and environmental sustainability, certification standards and marketing of sustainable tourism.</p> <p>The government has also established at the outcome of the crisis, a public/private platform to follow up on market performance and decide on most adequate measures to be undertaken.</p>

Dominican Republic	<p>In a joint cooperation initiative, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic will launch multi-destination tour packages available from September 2009, in order to increase European and American visitors and boost passenger traffic. With this initiative the two countries are expecting to attract Europeans who visit the Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico and in the opposite direction, ensuring that Americans who visit the Free Associated State travel to the eastern part of the island. However, the objective is not only to attract tourists from third countries, but additionally to encourage interregional tourism between the countries.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee for the Implementation of a Comprehensive Unified Service System for Investment in Tourism was established in March 2009.</p>
Grenada	<p>The government has provided a 50% tax break to hoteliers during the months of May and June 2009 as a means of ensuring that there will be no hotel and guesthouse closures and guaranteeing at least three days work per week for all permanent staff and use the services of temporary staff as often as possible. The objectives of the 50% waiver on general consumption tax for these months which are traditionally low occupancy months, is to preserve existing jobs in the tourism industry especially in hotels and guesthouses during this economic crisis; and preserve the direct airline services negotiated by the Airlift Committee.</p> <p>The relief, which was negotiated by the Grenada Hotel and Tourism Association, will be applicable during the months of May and June 2009 with the possibility of an extension. However, hoteliers and guesthouse owners accepting the discount must file outstanding financial statements and corporation tax returns. According to the agreement, hoteliers must also disclose the salaries of shareholders and directors, disclose plans to attract visitors to Grenada during the off-season, provide monthly statistics of guests to the Grenada Board of Tourism (copied to the Ministry of Finance) on occupancy levels and a statement on the number of jobs provided by the industry broken down by hotel, names of employees and job categories. A further relief for the period July-September 2009 and possibly October-December 15, 2009 will be considered.</p>
Jamaica	<p>The stimulus measures implemented by Jamaica include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assistance to ground transport operators through a US\$ 50 million loan facility: the loan has been made available by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) and is designed to assist contract carriage operators with maintaining and purchasing vehicles. ◆ Extension of the stimulus package offered to tourism stakeholders to counter the impact of the global economic recession on the sector: the stimulus package, which was in force from January through June and offered a 50% cut in General Consumption Tax (GCT) for the industry (from 8.25% to 4.12%) as well as a loan scheme, and an increased marketing budget. The tax cut is expected to maintain employment rates and keep market incentives in place for the hospitality sector during the fall season, which is traditionally a slow period for tourism. ◆ An aggressive multi-tiered national sales programme of trade and consumer promotions to create the highest visibility in key markets (USA, Canada and the UK); ◆ An aggressive, comprehensive, and competitive public relations, advertising and promotional plan with an overall goal to incentivize potential visitors and travel partners through their passions. ◆ Growing online presence with a marketing strategy aimed at increasing knowledge of Jamaica, its products and services and update consumers quickly and effectively on activities happening on the island.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Jamaica Tourism Board (JTB) has also collaborated with local airline Air Jamaica in a Winter Rescue prize promotion based in New York during January 2009, where Jamaican advertisement on taxicabs were designed to attract New York consumers through the accessibility and value of the destination as a tropical getaway during the challenging economic situation and colder weather period.
Mexico	Mexico's government is implementing extraordinary fiscal and financial stimulus measures, totalling MXN\$ 17.4 billion (US\$ 1.3 billion) aiming at a fast reactivation of the tourism industry. A promotional campaign has been designed to win back the trust of international tourists. In addition, the Secretary of Treasury and Public Credit will offer fiscal incentives to tourism companies, such as a 50% reduction of costs towards the use of air space and cruise ports, as well as a discount of 20% in management quotas paid to the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS).
Nicaragua	Nicaragua is implementing visa facilitation measures such as the elimination of visa requirement for nationals of Costa Rica.
Saint Lucia	The Government of Saint Lucia has increased the resources available for tourism marketing.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has established several measures to support the tourism sector, which include a preferential rate for electricity, tax rebates for hotel and yacht operators and a loan facility for hoteliers.
United States of America (USA)	<p>On May 2009, the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation approved the Travel Promotion Act of 2009. Through this legislation, a public-private partnership has been created with an annual budget of up to US\$ 200 million to attract international travelers to the USA by better communicating America's security policies and competing for visitors. In addition, the Travel Promotion Act specifies that travel promotion would be paid for by private sector contributions and a US\$ 10 fee on foreign travelers from countries that do not pay US\$ 131 for a visa to enter the country.</p> <p>The legislation requires no contributions from national taxpayers, and is expected to help the United States of America create thousands of new jobs and increase travel and spending by international visitors. The bill also creates an Office of Travel Promotion in the Department of Commerce to coordinate the Department's efforts with the new corporation and expands the existing Office of Travel and Tourism Industries in the Department of Commerce to allow it to research ways to promote international travel to the country.</p>
Uruguay	Uruguay will continue its communication actions, particularly at the regional level, supporting the private sector through promotional activities like participation in trade fairs and on-line promotion. Particular stimulus for Argentina, Uruguay's principal source market, has been implemented. Specifically, the reimbursement of fuel charges for those staying in formal accommodation and taxes discounts in restaurants for credit card payments. In addition, the Government has implemented a system by which tourists can buy national products tax-free. Additionally, real-estate companies' commissions for rentals to non-residents will be included in the services export regime, while the Tax Administration Department (DGI) will keep a record of dwellings offered for seasonal rental.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Australia	<p>In response to the financial crisis and its expected impacts, Tourism Australia has developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Close market follow-up: the Global Market Monitor provided the industry and its stakeholders with a detailed monthly report on the conditions and performance of each of its key markets. The Monitor is based on visitor and visa data as well as reports from Tourism Australia's international offices, trade partners and industry colleagues. ◆ A special domestic tourism campaign encouraging Australian workers to take their leave holiday at home: the programme called <i>No Leave, No Life</i> was launched by the Minister for Tourism in the end of May, to encourage Australian workers to use their stockpiled annual leaves for holidays in Australia. As a support to this campaign a website has been created (www.noleavenolife.com) to inform businesses and their workforces.
Brunei Darussalam	<p>The Brunei Tourism Board has stepped up its promotional Kenali Negara Kitani (KNK) with a new marketing campaign called <i>10 must-do KNK packages for 2009</i>, in an attempt to compensate for the forecasted slowdown in international travel. The campaign includes 10 packages conducted by several organizations and tour operators. The campaign will also launch the KNK Passport to encourage more locals and expatriates living in the country to travel and participate in the campaign. The Tourism Board is also working with the Land Transport Department to extend the public transport system and to make Brunei more accessible for its Bornean neighbours of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Pontianak and Kalimantan.</p> <p>The objectives of the KNK (Kenali Negara Kitani) are to make of the tourism industry a key contributor in the country's economic diversification plans and a major provider of employment and business opportunities, as well as to create greater awareness of the many tourism attractions and activities available in the country for both domestic and international tourist. The KNK campaign comprises 3 key concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promotion of domestic tourism: The KNK campaign promotes to Bruneians and residents the concept of travelling and doing tourism activities within the country, not only by visiting places of attraction, but also by using the services of tourism providers. ◆ Awareness of tourism as a key industry for the future: In line with the country's economic diversification drive, the KNK campaign emphasizes to the public at large the importance of developing, sustaining and embracing the tourism industry. ◆ Awareness of tourism as a career possibility: The KNK campaign targets students by highlighting the different interesting and rewarding career options available in tourism.
Bhutan	<p>Bhutan is collaborating with the private sector to offer discounts and keep the minimum daily tariff for tourists unchanged. The Royal Government of Bhutan deferred the tariff revision from US\$ 200 to US\$ 250 that was supposed to take effect from July 2009 to a later date. The minimum daily tariff has not been changed in approximately 18 years despite rising inflation. Additionally, in order to minimize the impact of the current situation on the arrivals to the country, the Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) initiated an industry wide consultation, which resulted in a joint response for the tourism sector. From 1st July 2009, a discount of US\$ 20 will be given on the royalty during peak months, while a discount of US\$ 15 will be given during the off season to tourists after their 9th night in the Kingdom. After reducing the fuel surcharge by US\$ 3, TCB has convinced the national airline Druk Air to re-instate the low season discount. In addition, hoteliers have also agreed to suspend the annual 10% increase of their room tariff.</p>

Cambodia	<p>Cambodia is developing and implementing a short term tourism strategy plan in response to the economic downturn challenge. The main issues considered are facilitation of travel, marketing and promotion, domestic tourism promotion and ASEAN region cooperation. The measures and projects that have been taken and planned to implement are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Travel facilitation: Facilitation of travelling procedures and transportation for tourists within the regional framework. Cross border tourism with neighboring countries is to be further developed by improving services and hospitality at border check point, including the use of a border pass for Cambodian and citizens of neighboring countries. Moreover, to streamline the procedure for mutual travel, the exemption from entry visa between Cambodia and Vietnam has been signed. Additionally, the Government will provide the Visa – K for Cambodian living overseas to promote Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) travel, which will become increasingly popular as travelers look to eliminate costs. In addition, Cambodia and Vietnam have agreed to open six new border crossings to boost trade and travel. Initially, there was just one such gate at the Bavet in Svay Rieng province. However, it is thanks to the new gates, from which three were already opened on July 2009, that Vietnam and Cambodia aim to boost the economy at the border, and cut the time spent by people looking to travel from one country to another or within the ASEAN region, and thus, to attract more tourists. ◆ Marketing and promotion: Cambodia is taking measures to secure a sustainable growth and attract tourists during this difficult time of global economic slowdown. In October 2008, the Cambodia new branding campaign was launched to promote the country more widely, to attract more tourists and foreign investors. The strategic marketing plan <i>Cambodia – Kingdom of Wonder</i> is focused on promoting the country as a cultural and natural destination. A joint public and private sector working group has met to evaluate challenges and opportunities facing tourism. The Ministry of Tourism will continue to tap in tourism demand, such as the quest for cheaper travel. In terms of internet and promotional information, core messaging and media partnerships are identified as critical for communication. The Ministry of Tourism will continue to target traditional source markets such as ASEAN and East Asia, emerging markets such as India, Russia and Middle East and also the markets that are less affected by the recent global developments. ◆ Domestic tourism promotion: As for the domestic market, the objective is to encourage local visitors to travel locally, to boost tourism numbers and flatten seasonality. ◆ Regional tourism cooperation: ASEAN countries benefits from increasing air connectivity particularly on low-cost carriers (LCCs). The expansion of open–skies policies and the expansion of the ASEAN highway are providing significant intra-ASEAN travel. Cambodia encourages and proactively works to attract direct flights and upgrade airports in recognition of the need to increase direct air access into and within the country. The country’s third emerging gateway, the Sihanoukville Airport, has been upgraded to cater to larger aircrafts and was equipped with facilities, which will attract regional direct flights in the near future and at the same time improve the quality of tourism services and products in order to attract more visitors. During their January 2009, the ASEAN Tourism Ministers declared 2009-2010 as the youth travelers’ year within ASEAN region. Considering the seriousness of tourism slowdown, Cambodia is taking the initiative with the ASEAN member states to encourage active youths appreciate the diverse cultures within the region.
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China	<p>In view of the current situation, the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) is following the direction of expanding domestic demand and promoting consumption stipulated by the Chinese Central Government. The CNTA is adjusting its development strategy and emphasizing the importance of domestic tourism development. Additional measures have been taken in collaboration with the airline industry, mainly towards tax cuts and promotion. Regarding the Green Economy, 2009 was proclaimed as China's <i>Ecological Tourism Year</i> to meet actual tourism green trends and stimulate the industry's sustainable development.</p> <p>Measures taken by China to boost domestic tourism demand and promote tourism consumption include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The <i>National Leisure Tourism Plan</i> which intends to improve the quality of life, promote the leisure industry and contribute to increase the revenues from domestic tourism. Several provinces such as Beijing, Guangdong, Zhejiang, and Shandong have initiated the distribution of 'tourism coupons', expected to stimulate Chinese nationals' travel decisions and bring revenue to tourism related industries. ◆ 1.8 billion RMB (US\$ 263 million) to refund the quality guarantee deposit for travel agencies: CNTA will refund the quality guarantee deposit submitted by travel agencies to help tourism enterprises overcome the difficult times. According to this policy, travel agencies can claim a temporary refund of 70% of the quality guarantee deposit which they pay to the CNTA when they set up their business. A period of two years from the 4th January 2009 to 31st December 2010 was granted for the application of this policy. ◆ One billion RMB (US\$ 146 million) to improve tourism infrastructure was allocated by the Chinese Central Government to be invested in tourism infrastructure development projects. The major areas for investment are tourism infrastructure, public service facilities and rural tourism. ◆ The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) introduced 10 measures to respond to the financial crisis and promote the stable development of the industry. These measures cover security monitoring, rectifying and standardizing market order, strictly controlling airplane capacity growth, providing political and financial support to fly routes to remote and underdeveloped areas, monetary policies for the benefit of national airlines, adjusting the pricing of fuel, promoting energy saving actions, enhancing the construction of infrastructure, expanding the scope of air services and facilitating the restructuring of enterprises. <p>A total of 400 million RMB (US\$ 58 million) will be granted to subsidize 100 fly routes to remote and underdeveloped areas which have market potential, newly developed fly routes operated by exclusive airline companies for three years, remote international fly routes supported by special policies and secondary fly routes. In addition, the CAAC refunded domestic airline companies through the civil aviation infrastructure development fund, paid in the second half of 2008 and exempted the fund for the first half of 2009.</p> <p>The CAAC will continue to implement the policies of investment to selected airlines: exemption of fuel surcharge tax, refund of value added tax to international, Hong Kong, and Macao airlines who consume domestic fuel, exemption from flight check fee for selected airports and to subsidize some small and median airports who exempt landing fees for airlines in 2009. Another 400 billion RMB (US\$ 58 billion) will be invested in airport infrastructure. By 2010, there will be 140 airport projects implemented including 50 new airports, 12 remodeled airports, and 78 expanded airports.</p>
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	<p>In addition, the CAAC has introduced a series of actions to save energy and reduce emission of greenhouse gas, such as optimizing the air space and the structure of flight routes, facilitating the use of direct flight routes to shorten the flight duration and improving the technical procedures for the arrival and departure of airplanes. By applying these measures, the CAAC aims to reduce flying and waiting time by 3 minutes for each flight and, as a result, reduce 200,000 hours every year for all flights, which means savings of 4.5 billion RMB (US\$ 658 million) on energy and fuel cost. More importantly, this reduction of flying and waiting time leads to significantly less emission of greenhouse gas from airline industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ China will launch promotional campaigns to major international source markets: More effort will be spent on promoting China's tourism to international markets by organizing road shows and other promotional activities in China's major source markets like Russia, Japan, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. ◆ The CNTA declared 2009 <i>China Year of Ecotourism</i> with the aim of developing green tourism and raising awareness of environmentally-friendly travel and tourism concepts. More importantly, through the creation and promotion of ecotourism products, it fights the ongoing international crisis and offers new attractions for tourism consumption. This initiative will also expand domestic consumption in tourism by arousing ecological appreciation among Chinese people. All the provinces in China are actively participating in this campaign, promoting their own green tourism itineraries, and in turn, the industry's sustainable development. The campaign started in March 2009 and ends in February 2010. ◆ A cooperation agreement has been signed between two cities, Tianjin and Shanghai, to jointly promote tourism brands. The parties, ready to establish a win-win partnership, will share marketing resources and exchange information.
Fiji	<p>In order to boost tourism, Tourism Fiji continues to carry out tactical marketing within major source markets, especially Australia and New Zealand, focused on 'great value deals' made even more competitive and attractive by the devaluation of the Fijian dollar. These tactical campaigns have been complimented by the branding of destination Fiji and public relation activities. Press campaigns in overseas countries have been driven with a collective approach with Tourism Fiji's partners, airlines, private sector and wholesalers. For instance, a three weeks stimulus campaign was released in March 2009 by Tourism Fiji and their industry partners. In conjunction with many of the destination's hotel and resorts and Australian wholesaler partners, the US\$ 1 million TV and consumer print campaign revolved around the release of a series of specially-priced, all-inclusive Fiji packages. The packages which had to be booked and paid for during the three week period and is valid for travel until September of this year, includes return air fares to Fiji, all accommodation expenses, airport-hotel transfers plus all meals. The campaign was designed to draw attention to the incredible value Fiji currently offers to Australian travellers. It was also intended to drive business directly into travel agencies and towards wholesale partners in the country, and to increase businesses.</p> <p>On the other hand, an Air Services Agreement (ASA) set to be effective from December 2009 is intended to open up air routes into Asia and to Europe and the USA. In addition, Tourism Fiji has approved American based Continental Micronesia's offer to provide nonstop twice weekly service between Fiji and the American ports of Honolulu and Guam hub. Continental Micronesia's service will not only provide connectivity from eight Japanese cities for Japanese outbound travel, but also provide connectivity from major American economic centres like New York, Houston and Los Angeles to Fiji. This agreement will also provide travellers with flight and pricing options and will give them greater flexibility and accessibility.</p>

Hong Kong, (China)	<p>To enhance the competitiveness of the destination, the government of Hong Kong (China) announced the following measures within the its 2008-2009 budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Waiving of the hotel accommodation tax starting from 1 July 2008; ◆ Exemption of the duty on wine and alcoholic beverages (except spirits); ◆ Earmark an additional HK\$ 150 million (US\$ 19.3 million) for promotion and marketing initiatives to attract more international conventions and exhibitions to Hong Kong (China) over the next five years; ◆ Finance development of a world class terminal at the old Kai Tak airport site with the first berth expected to be operational in 2013. <p>In addition, a budget of US\$ 12.8 million was set to assist organizers hosting more attractive events in Hong Kong (China) in the areas of arts, culture and sports over the next three years. This will help raise the international profile of many home-grown cultural and sports events to build up Hong Kong's position as the events capital of Asia.</p> <p>As consumers take less expensive holidays and switch to short-haul destinations, the destination have re-deployed its marketing resources to focus on short-haul markets and stepped up promotions to attract visitors with new tourism products. Other efforts have been taken including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Asia's meetings industry hub: Hong Kong (China) will play host to a number of large-scale events in 2009 including Art Hong Kong 2009, SIBOS (an international conference/exhibition on financial telecommunications), Aerospace 2009, WONCA (World Organization of Family Doctors) and the Asia Pacific Regional Conference. The newly-established Meetings and Exhibitions Hong Kong office of the Hong Kong Tourism Board will provide one-stop support for event organisers and will enrich the travel experience of meetings visitors through the arrangement of special cultural programmes. ◆ Host of 2009 East Asian Games and other mega events: The Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games will be held in December. This is one of Asia's showpiece multi-sport competitions, featuring top-class athletes from across the region, with more than 3,500 athletes, competing for 290 gold medals in 23 sporting events. Moreover, the Tourism Board will inject new entertainment elements such as <i>Hong Kong Summer Temptations</i> and <i>Hong Kong Winterfest</i>, and stage brand new events including an Asian music festival and a 10-day wine and dine festival, as marketing platforms for the destination. ◆ Easier entry for visitors: Hong Kong (China) is one of the world's most immigration-friendly cities. Travelers from some 170 countries and territories enjoy visa-free access to the city for stays of between seven and 180 days. ◆ A further expansion of the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS), which allows residents from 49 Mainland cities to visit Hong Kong (China) without having to join group tours, was announced in December 2008. Furthermore, Hong Kong (China) expects to sign in the near future, a mutual visa-free access agreement with Russia. ◆ Ecotourism: The Tourism Board will stage a brand new <i>Hong Kong Hiking Festival</i> in 2009 and roll out high-end green tour itineraries to showcase the city's natural wonders and living culture. ◆ Regional Cooperation: The country is enhancing cooperation with Macao (China) and the Guangdong Province of Mainland China to promote multi-destination itineraries. The year 2009 is also designated as the <i>Hong Kong-Japan Tourism Year</i>, during which new tourism products will be promoted, targeting different source markets in Japan.
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India	<p>The Indian government, in collaboration and association with all the stakeholders in the tourism industry, has announced initiatives to reduce the impact of the economic slowdown, through its tourism offices overseas. During the first half of the year, the majority of the plan was focused on marketing and promotion of key Indian destinations in their main source markets, with initiatives such as the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme, the <i>Visit India 2009</i> promotional plan, the organization of road shows and familiarization trips, as well as the participation at major international travel fairs. Continuing with the efforts taken to increase the number of foreign tourist arrivals for the second half of 2009, the Tourism Minister has stressed the importance of reaching out to new and potential source markets. In this direction, promotional activities have been organized in Scandinavia and Russia for August and September 2009.</p> <p>Initiatives announced during the first half 2009 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expansion and liberalization of the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism to promote tourism in the overseas markets and provide increased assistance and financial support to tourism service providers, for the promotion of Medical Tourism and Convention and Conference Tourism. ◆ A <i>Visit India 2009</i> promotional campaign to encourage visits of foreign tourists to India during the period April 2009-December 2009. Under this scheme, incentives are being offered by airlines, hotels, tour operators, wellness centers and resorts and others, to all tourists visiting the country during the current year. ◆ Familiarization tours for overseas, media and travel trade representatives to key destinations in India. ◆ Subsidies set by the Ministry of Tourism until March 2010, for the Travel Industry and State Governments in the India Portions, to participate at major international Travel Fairs/Exhibitions. ◆ Media and outdoor advertising campaigns in all important cities worldwide. <i>Incredible India</i> advertisement has been visible at the International Film Festival at Cannes, the Penn Station in New York, metro station in Singapore, on hoardings in Tokyo, Milan, cable cars in San Francisco, taxis, buses and trams in Tokyo, Milan, New York, Miami, Chicago, London, Seoul, Philadelphia, Toronto, Bahrain and Muscat and many others. ◆ A series of road shows organized with the support of their Overseas Offices in key source markets including USA, Canada, UK, Ireland, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and Dubai. ◆ Liberalization of the conditions for availing External Commercial Borrowing (ECB), for hotels in the corporate segment. ◆ Rationalization of Aviation Turbo Fuel (ATF) charges, resulting in substantial reduction in air fares. <p>In August 2009, the Tourism Minister stressed the importance of reaching out to new and potential source markets, while continuing to work with their traditional source markets. As an initiative in this direction, the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the PATA India Chapter, have been organizing a series of Road Shows in Scandinavia and Russia.</p> <p>Additional actions underway for the development of niche tourism products include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Framing of guidelines for the development and promotion of Caravan Tourism, as well as a Tourism Heliport for destinations in hilly and remote areas which have tourism potential but lack good connectivity. ◆ The Ministry will also grant central financial assistance to State Governments or Union Territory Administrations for the construction of one Convention Centre in each State/Union Territory, for promotion of the meetings industry. ◆ For providing greater exposure to Wellness & Medical Tourism segment, the Ministry of Tourism is organizing a focused Medical Tourism Road Show in Dubai on October 2009. ◆ Adventure Tourism Road Shows are being organized in collaboration with the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India, for a
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	<p>targeted audience in Australia and New Zealand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ For promoting tourism in the Buddhist circuit, Indian Railways has launched a special tourist train – the ‘Mahaparinirvana’. The train starts from Delhi and the eight day package covers the important Buddhist sites of Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Varanasi, Kushinagar and Sravasti. ◆ The Tourism Ministry is aware of the opportunity for showcase India during the Commonwealth Games, scheduled to be held in Delhi in 2010. <p>Finally, India and Singapore have signed a Joint Action Plan on Tourism Cooperation in August 2009 aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strengthening joint marketing collaboration in third countries such as ASEAN countries and China. ◆ Promote reciprocal visits of media representatives, travel agents and tourism operators, with the aim of creating awareness about tourist attractions in each others’ countries. ◆ Participating in tourism fairs in India and Singapore, respectively. ◆ Considering the organization of a Singapore and an India week at the sidelines of tourism fairs. ◆ Promoting and encouraging human resource development in tourism industries by collaborating through exchange programmes for faculties, and by exchanging information on teaching modules and curriculum.
Indonesia	<p>The efforts taken by the Government of Indonesia in coping with the crisis aim to intensify the initiatives aimed at the short haul market, especially neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, as well as medium haul markets which are connected by direct flights or have new flight connections including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, Hong Kong (China) and Taiwan (Pr China). On the other hand, Indonesian and Malaysian tourism authorities are working together to enhanced cooperation in the Asian market. Initiatives include joint promotion, increased flight services, incentives and travel discounts.</p> <p>Main measures taken by Indonesia include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Policy on tourism development 2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The re-launch of the <i>Visit Indonesia Year</i> focusing in 2009 on Marine tourism and the meetings industry but without leaving out other market segments of special interest such as ecotourism and adventure tourism. - The launch of the national programme <i>Kenali Negerimu, Cintai Negerimu</i> (‘know your country by travelling across and you will love it’) to stimulate domestic tourism. ◆ Marketing strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancement of marketing and promotion for international and domestic tourism by utilizing printed and electronic media, supporting various international events and supporting Indonesia promotion offices abroad which cover promotion of tourism, trade and investment. - Establishment of 10 representatives of tourism promotion abroad in the cities of Tokyo, Sydney, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Singapore, Guangzhou, London, Frankfurt, Dubai and Moscow. - Facilitation of direct promotion of qualified products for special niche market. - Co-marketing with airlines, hotels, travel agents, IT Companies and international tourism organizations. - Focusing on e-marketing and in media promotion campaigns - Organization of events and festivals, namely in cross-border areas to generate foreign tourists. - Setting up of marketing task forces consisting of multi stakeholders based on market priorities. ◆ Destination development strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of 15 destinations other than Bali, focusing on marine tourism, the meetings industry, and culture and sport tourism development. - Facilitation of the development of tourism at priority destinations, for example, by providing supporting funds for improving quality of tourism attractions. - Enhancement of competencies of tourism industries, for example, in developing tourism packages. - Developing tourism attractions with professional approach and sustainable tourism development beyond Java and Bali Island. ◆ Human resource strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building for human resource development. - Mapping of human resources development on tourism. - Improvement of recruitment systems for obtaining qualified human resources - Policy of zero unemployment after one year of graduation from tourism schools, under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. - Capacity building and technical assistances for tourism industries in 15 priority destinations: Java and Bali, North and South Sulawesi, North, West and South Sumatera provinces, West Papua and East Kalimantan.
Iran, Islamic Republic of	<p>Iran (Islamic Republic of) is encouraging domestic tourism by collaborating with the accommodation sector and other tourism businesses to design low cost trips and discounts for domestic tourists and governmental employees. In addition, the government is easing visa requirement procedures and increasing promotion in Iran's target markets.</p> <p>To encourage domestic tourism in the low season and to smooth seasonality, Iran's government has made an agreement with the accommodation sector and other tourism businesses to design and provide low cost trips to Iranians. For governmental employees nationwide, 3,054,175 travel cards were issued so they can benefit from a discount of 20% to 50% on hotels, hotel-apartments and handicraft shops all over the country in any low or high season.</p> <p>Regarding visa facilitation, Iran's government launched an electronic Visa system through which tourists from any nationality can apply for an E-Visa that will be issued within 48 to 72 hours. Up to date, 300.000 E-visas have been issued for international tourists around the world.</p> <p>In order to provide potential international tourists with proper information and efficient promotion of Iran's tourism, Tourist Information Centers have been established in 10 countries, namely in Turkey, Kuwait, Oman, Thailand, Pakistan, Greece, Syria, Republic of Korea, Japan, and Bahrain. Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization will continue its participation on international tourism exhibitions all over the world such as JATA, WTM, ITB, BIT and FITUR, to promote Iran in target markets.</p>

Japan	<p>The Japanese government is encouraging the expansion of two-way tourism between Japan and the world, through the auspices of the Tourism Nation Promotion Act. This is the aim of the <i>Visit Japan Campaign</i> and the <i>Visit World Campaign (VWC)</i>. The VWC brings together the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), and related government ministries, tourism offices, airlines, airport authorities and other concerned parties as members of the VWC 20 million travelers promotion special committee (VWC Committee) and establishes the VWC Promotion Office at JATA. The two bodies are tasked with stimulating outbound travel from Japan's regions.</p>
Macao (China)	<p>To deal with the potential impact of the current economic downturn on tourism, Macao (China) is implementing the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Suspension of tourism tax (5%) for restaurants. ◆ Waive fees for participation in overseas travel trade/consumer fairs for Macau travel industry representatives. ◆ Support to travel agencies for the development of overnight heritage tours in Macao (China). ◆ Cooperation with airlines & tour operators to develop value-added packages for target market segments (focus on incentives, family, high-spending female, honeymooners and world heritage-conscious segments). ◆ Cooperation with airlines to open up more direct flights between Macao (China) and other international cities. ◆ Station tourist guides and provide free presentations for visitors at World Heritage sites, in order to facilitate world-heritage-conscious audience, and encourage longer length of stay. ◆ Encourage and support Professional Conference Organizers (PCOs) to participate and organize meetings in Macao (China). ◆ Develop networking opportunities for local companies dedicated to the meetings industry in overseas trade shows.
Malaysia	<p>Malaysia is focusing its efforts on encouraging local and foreign tourists to visit the country through marketing programs and advertising campaigns. Two main examples are the rebranding of <i>Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) programme</i> and the <i>Zoom Malaysia</i> campaign aimed at the promotion of domestic tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The <i>MM2H programme</i> was endorsed by the government and introduced in 2002 specifically to attract foreigners wishing to live a meaningful and affordable life in Malaysia for extended periods. The rebranding of MM2H was officially launched on 23 March 2009 by the Ministry of Tourism with the aim of making it more attractive and effective. The new direction is to attract not only foreigners looking to stay long-term or retire in Malaysia, but also high net-worth individuals looking to invest in Malaysia, either by setting up their business here or by partnering with our local entrepreneurs. ◆ <i>Zoom Malaysia</i> was launched in May 2008, aiming at encouraging local and foreign tourists to explore the beauty of the country's rainforests that are rich with unique flora and fauna. It is in line with the Government's efforts to promote Malaysia as an eco-tourism destination. The advertising campaign for SMRT trains, busses and taxis in Singapore ran for six months, beginning January 2009. In March, another two campaigns were launched including livery advertising on AirAsia's aircraft and in the Kuala Lumpur International Airport

Maldives	<p>The Maldivian government sees the current downturn as an opportunity to explore new ways of expanding the tourism industry. In this regard, traditional sun, sea and sand attractions have been complemented by adding culture, tradition, heritage and historical sites to increase the experience of tourists visiting the Maldives.</p> <p>To attain this objective, 63 new tourism projects have being developed and the islands have been leased to expand the tourism industry across the nation. In addition, for supporting tourism developers facing the current difficulties and raising the capital needed to complete the projects, the government has decided to defer the rental payments due in 2009 to be paid over three years starting from 2010.</p> <p>In partnership with the Maldives government, industry operators are offering services on complementary basis. Tourists visiting some of the resorts are given free transport and additional nights; many of such promotional offers are available in most of the islands' resorts.</p> <p>Furthermore, the government has decided to strengthen its marketing and promotional activities. In this regard, the Maldives had a much stronger participation at BIT Milan in Italy and at ITB Berlin in Germany. The President of the Maldives attended the BIT fair and met with the Italian travel trade to discuss promoting and attracting Italian tourists to the Maldives. A Maldivian Night was held during ITB and travel trade officials and media were invited. As well, during an official visit to the UK, the President discussed the future direction of tourism development in the Maldives.</p>
Nepal	<p>The promotion of domestic tourism is one of the major objectives for <i>Nepal Tourism Year 2011</i> tourism campaign. In addition, the government is working proactively to enhance air connectivity with regional, emerging and potential markets.</p>
New Zealand	<p>Tourism New Zealand is concentrating its efforts on maintaining its profile in its principal source markets by taking advantage of its geographical position, as Australians are expected to be keener to holiday closer to home during the crisis. With this objective, the New Zealand Government provided NZ\$ 2.5 million (US\$ 1.7 million) to Tourism New Zealand, to boost tourism promotion in Australia. The funding will help maintain the country's profile in Australia as Australians plan their winter and summer holidays.</p> <p>Additionally, agreements have been signed with partner countries for further development of tourism. For instance, the agreement signed with the Chinese Government, committing tourism representatives from the two countries to meet regularly to discuss tourism issues, and the Air Transport Agreement with Canada, aimed at removing previous limitations on the frequency of provided flights. As a result, New Zealand and Canadian carriers can operate to and beyond each others' country over any routing. As for China, the agreement strengthens the tourism relationship between the two countries. Additional work will go on to formalise a protocol for handling emergencies affecting nationals while on holiday. Tourism New Zealand is having quiet success with its Approved Destination Status (ADS) monitoring unit – twenty companies are now approved under the voluntary code of conduct and around 70 tour guides have graduated to become the first cohort of official ADS-approved guides. Tourism New Zealand has also worked with the Immigration Service in China to introduce a fast-track visa approval system for 'trusted partner' travel agents selling independent holidays.</p> <p>In the area of marketing and promotion, Tourism New Zealand is focusing on building increased awareness in the medium to long term. In the short term, cheap airfares and a strong US dollar exchange rate, together with the newly launched extension of <i>100% Pure New Zealand</i> campaign (<i>The New Zealand Life Back Promise</i>), are expected to stimulate interest in travel to New Zealand in the US market while in the UK, again the exchange rate and competitive pricing on airfares is maintaining interest.</p>

	<p>In addition, the national Government is taking many other steps to protect New Zealand from the worst impacts of the downturn. They continue to develop the “Jobs and Growth Plan”, a series of initiatives aimed at retaining and growing jobs, including the “Small Business Relief Package” and the “Prime Minister’s Job Summit”. The “Small Business Relief Package” aims to reduce red tape and make managing cash flows and paying taxes less expensive for small and medium businesses. The Job Summit has been developed, in collaboration with key players in the sector.</p>
Pakistan	<p>Pakistan’s main measures have been in the area of visa facilitation and air transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pakistan’s visa policy reflects the government policy of liberalization and openness, with a view to make it a tourist friendly country (TFC): Tourist friendly countries have been increased from 2 to 24 for the grant of Visa on Arrival (VOA) for one month validity and multiple entries, for group travel through designated tour operators. Particularly, group tourists from India will be allowed with a 30-day visa (instead of 14 days) through designated tour operators. Meanwhile, Pakistan missions abroad have been authorized to grant double entry tourist/visit visa with a 32 month validity and stay. ◆ As for air transport, within the package of incentives and concessions for tourism development approved by the government of Pakistan, permission for chartered flights was given by the Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the Ministry of Interior. Chartered flights are now allowed on point-to-point basis from Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. Meanwhile, helicopter chartered flight service is allowed anywhere in Pakistan.
Philippines	<p>The stimulus plan which is intended to insulate the tourism industry from the impact of the global meltdown includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An aggressive marketing strategy to promote the Philippines as the best and cheapest tourist destination, especially for its target markets (the USA and Japan): the Department of Tourism (DOT), in collaboration with airlines and hotels, has cut the cost of tour packages by half. The new tour packages offer discounts between February and April 2009 to USA and Japan markets. Likewise, for the second half of 2009, the DOT will open two stimulus packages for US market, and further packages are in the negotiation phase. ◆ Creation of 3.000 new jobs in support of President Arroyo's programme to provide one million jobs in the first six months of 2009 ◆ Increase of air capacity: due to the attempt of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to improve their air agreement between the country and the UK, the DOT has presented on August the newly amended air pact which allows 7 flights per week on a B747 aircraft, accommodating more than 500 passengers, between Manila to several points in the UK, including London, Heathrow, Gatwick and Stanstead.
Republic of Korea	<p>The following measures have been taken to beat the current downward trend of international travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ VISA discount promotion: The Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) and Visa card are working together to present a huge discount promotion from April 2009 to March 2010. Visa users from all over the world are eligible for discounts on a range of merchandise, restaurants, leisure activities, and many more of Korea's attractions. Moreover, visitors will also perceive great discounts due to the downward trend of the Korean won against other foreign currencies. During this period, Visa users can pick up a discount coupon booklet that lists all the discount offers available. Locations where visitors can save money include SK Telecom Roaming Centre's cellular phone rental service at Incheon International Airport, shopping centers throughout Seoul's downtown areas, cosmetics shops, amusement parks, restaurants, cafes, hotels and duty free shops. With at least 60 different offers available, visitors will be able to enjoy the benefits from the moment they arrive to Korea. Visitors who make purchases with a visa card, and present the discount coupon booklet, will receive discounts from 5% up to 50% at the participating stores and locations.

- ◆ Shift to domestic tourism: KTO plans to develop and promote high-class domestic tourism products, including golf tourism and school excursions, in order to meet effectively the demands of those who opt to explore domestic destinations instead of international ones.
- ◆ Meetings industry development: The meetings industry has been included as a value-added service industry by the Korean government. Last December, the KTO reorganized its organizational structure to allow the Korean Meetings industry to have more autonomy by specifically promoting the existing bureaus to headquarters and doubling the budget of the headquarters for 2009 over the previous year's budget. Main projects for 2009 are largely divided into three categories: meetings industry infrastructure development, promotion of the country as a meetings host destination, and additional projects to attract more international events. Some of the undertaken initiatives include a basic statistical survey to obtain comprehensive information about the meetings industry; the establishment of a five-year development plan; training of meetings experts and specialists; and the creation of an integrated information system designed to be a source of information and networking among the related businesses.

- ◆ Development and promotion of green tourism: Korea has been active in tackling its energy and environmental shortcomings under a programme entitled *Low-Carbon, Green Growth*. In an initial effort to extend greenhouse gas reduction to the tourism sector and adopt environmentally friendly measures, the KTO launched a Green Tourism Team in December 2008 with the mandate to oversee and enforce environmental protection and preservation, the promotion of green tourism in Korea and to prevent the degradation of the nation's environmental resources through unsustainable tourism practices. Moreover, the KTO will proactively promote existing green tourism attractions such as Korean Demilitarized Zone, the Suncheon Bay, the Upo Marshlands, the Tidelands of the West Sea and Damyang, and will develop new environment friendly tourism products such as the Gyeongin Canal, a waterway designed to run from Incheon to Seoul. Comprehensive leisure facilities will be located and constructed in connection with these attractions with the funding from the Korean government. In addition, new historical walking courses with the 'storytelling' concept will be developed.

Furthermore, the government is committed to the sustainable development of the tourism industry in the long run. For instance, the KTO made a lead to map the Green Growth Policy (GGP) for the industry with the support of the Korea Culture and Tourism Institute. Long term objectives of GGP are to unify tourism with green technology, transform the tourism industry structure and make an eco-friendly value chain of tourism. A series of short term plans have been proposed under the GGP framework including:

- Development of a low-carbon energy saving accommodation;
- Establishment of an eco-system for green travel industry;
- Application of green technology in the theme park industry;
- Support of zero energy green events;
- Promotion of eco-friendly tourism projects;
- Enhancement of the understanding of green tourism through PR activities and education.

Singapore	<p>Singapore introduced four main initiatives to help the tourism sector through these challenging times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The <i>Building on Opportunities to Strengthen Tourism (BOOST)</i> Campaign: This S\$ 90 million (US\$ 62 million) initiative aims to increase travel to Singapore and includes tactical marketing campaigns in collaboration with industry partners. The campaign proposes six key elements – the demand of travel to Singapore, the government’s funding support to the sector, the sector’s capabilities, outreach to Singapore residents, partnership with the industry and the future of the sector. Measures under <i>BOOST</i> include tactical marketing campaigns as well as enhanced assistance schemes, developed in collaboration with tourism industry leaders and partners. The 2009 <i>Reasons to Enjoy Singapore</i> year-long global marketing campaign, which features special offers, is part of the promotional push aimed at 8 key source markets (Indonesia, Malaysia, China, India, Vietnam, UK, Germany and Australia). In the UK, the campaign focuses on the promotion of Singapore as a ‘must-see’ stopover destination and includes partnerships with a number of operators. ◆ Increase financial support to the tourism sector: The direct assistance to the tourism sector includes the waive of license fees for travel agents and tourist guides, the reduction of participation fees in overseas leisure and meetings industry tradeshows, and duty and GST exemption on wine for approved wine exhibitions and conference events. Different types of tourism enterprises are also eligible for other financial schemes, such as the Local Enterprise Finance Scheme, the New Bridging Loan Programme, the Micro Loan Programme, and the Loan Insurance Scheme Plus. Corporate tax policies include the reduction of the corporate tax rate from 18% to 17%, Enhancement of Loss Carry-Back Relief Scheme, Existing Capital Allowance Regime, and Tax Deduction for Renovation and Refurbishment Expenses. ◆ Meetings industry development: The BEiS scheme which was approved from 1 March 2009 to 28 February 2010 aims to support and defray the cost of meetings and events. Under this programme the government proposes to maintain the calendar of events and improve its content to ensure the events competitiveness, a Special Assistance Scheme for Value Events (SAVE) to grant overseas marketing of smaller events, a business and events pipeline for support players’ overseas business development under the ambit of Alliance Development Scheme and a more aggressive funding support for strategic events. ◆ Workforce resilience schemes: To help both employers and employees cope with manpower and employment challenges during the economic downturn Singapore’s government implemented a series workforce resilience schemes. By applying those schemes, when the economy recovers, the companies will have a more capable and competitive workforce better able to seize new opportunities. The Training Industry Professionals in Tourism Plus (TIP-iT Plus) programme will help to incentivize strategic companies with new or expanding tourism products, whose development requires new or specialized skills. From the 1 March 2009, the scheme will fund training conducted locally by overseas trainers and support the absentee payroll of trainees. Additionally, the government presents the Skills Programme for Upgrading and Resilience (SPUR), a two-year programme leveraging on the extensive Continuing Education and Training (CET) system built over the years, which offers financial incentives in the form of course fee subsidy and compensation for workers’ absence during the period of training. When companies send their workers for training under SPUR, they will save more on manpower costs which will in turn help save jobs. On the other hand, the Job Credit Scheme encourages all business to preserve jobs during the downturn. Employers will receive a 12% cash grant on the first S\$ 2,500 (US\$ 1.730) of each month’s wages for each employee on their CPF payroll for a year. Additionally, the GEMS-Plus (Go-the-Extra-Mile-for-Service) three-year plan, which follows from the GEMS movement that was launched in 2005, aims to further strengthen Singapore’s service
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	<p>standards. Some S\$ 100 million (US\$ 69 million) will be set aside to support and drive initiatives which focus on three main areas over the 3-year period: service capability development under CCI (Customer-Centric Initiative), research and thought leadership and promotion, publicity and recognition for service.</p>
Sri Lanka	<p>Sri Lanka's main strategy relies on hotel room capacity increase through the development of the Kalpitiya and Dedduwa resorts. An additional 4.000 rooms are expected to be added to the inventory by 2010, with another 1.000 rooms in other areas of Sri Lanka. In turn, the room capacity may be increased by another 6.000 rooms by the year 2016 with the creation of care service resorts, in order to take advantage of the new demand trend of ageing population and enhanced purchasing power.</p> <p>On the other hand, Sri Lanka has been included in an Asian Development Bank funded project to link and promote tourism sites in South Asian countries, especially for eco-tourism and pilgrimage tourism. The project was conceived as an interlinked series of sub-regional tourism investments in five countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The project is aimed at better positioning South Asia, especially 'multi-country' circuits in specific target markets, as well as improving cross-border travel. The participating countries also aim to ensure better management of natural and cultural heritage sites of tourism importance in the region and increase the participation of communities in tourism development. As part of the project, the South Asia Tourism Marketing Program is meant to promote the region's ecotourism and Buddhist attractions.</p>
Thailand	<p>Thailand's Government has been continuously approving and implementing tourism stimulus measures to help promote domestic and international travel, as well as to restore the country's image during these challenging times. This has resulted in immediate and medium term initiatives that have been discussed in collaboration with tourism stakeholders: governmental authorities, tour operators, travel agencies, tourism council members, Board of directors of airlines, airport authorities, immigrations, customs departments and commercial banks in the face of the current challenge. Stimulus measures by the Thai government include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promotional campaigns: Additional tourism marketing measures include special campaigns along with stepped-up online marketing. Campaigns include the <i>Thailand Talk to the World</i> project that involves making a 90-second vignettes of Thai tourism for global media like CNN and BCC World, the <i>Welcome Back</i> project, involving media briefings in major trade shows and arranging a Thailand Road Show in China, India, Russia, and America and the <i>Partner on Demand</i> campaign, which entails working with industry partners to launch special packages and advertise in local media. Other campaigns incorporate website marketing such as <i>Thailand Real Time</i>, for organizing online promotional events and <i>Thailand Super Deal</i>, where tourists can find Thailand's best deal packages from hotels, tour operators, airlines, shopping centers, etc. ◆ Fee discounting for visitors to Thailand's national parks: Visitors are given a discount of 50% on the entrance fees to national parks, which includes historical sites, wildlife reserves, and marine national parks. The application period of this discount has been extended from its initial 3 months period (February to May 2009). ◆ Waiving of visa fees: The Thai government has waived visa fees for all types of tourists travelling to Thailand during the period from 5 March to 4 June 2009. In turn, the government has agreed to extend the exemption of the visa fee for tourist visa applications until the 4 March 2010. The exemption applies to all applicants for a visa on arrival at all international airports in Thailand, as well as those applying at Thai embassies abroad for stays longer than the period for which they are normally eligible.

- ◆ Tax reductions and exemptions for the private sector: For hotel operators, business tax exemption will be effective for the year 2010. There is also a reduction in the deposit amount for electricity usage, equivalent to 1.25 times of electricity usage guarantee for 'good recorded' hotel operators. Approximate rate is based on the past 3 month record.
- ◆ Fiscal and momentary support: The Micro Finance or Micro Credit scheme was issued, with the cooperation of all financial banks in Thailand and the Small and Medium Entrepreneur Bank. Lending period will be for two years with -3% of Median Low Rate (MLR) of interest, -1% from cooperated banks and -2% from the budget allocated by the government. In order to reach those who are really affected by this economic downturn, the sector was requested to be divided into four groups: Hotels, Restaurants, Tour Operator and others. Each group is chaired by one of the Presidents of tourism associations. The President of the Thailand Tourism Council chairs the diverse groups. Each group has to first screen its members and non members who need to ask for this special loan. They have to prove that their businesses are affected by the global economic downturn in 2009 and that they did not have debts previous to the crisis. The project was launched nationally on 17 March 2009 in Bangkok, during which all commercial banks and those concerned opened their booths for the soft loan project. A monitoring committee was set up to follow up the best performances, transparency and efficiency of the Micro-Credit scheme. Regarding recent financial aid approval, the Thai Cabinet has given clearance to the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand (SME Bank) to offer loans to smaller tourism operators, totaling a THB\$ 5 billion (US\$ 147 million). Of that amount, THB\$ 3 billion (US\$ 88 million) has been allocated to help tourism SMEs currently in debt to the banks. This will help to subsidize the loans given by banks by paying an equivalent of 2% interest for a period of 2 years. Another THB\$ 2 billion (US\$ 59 million) loan was set up for SMEs in the tourism industry which are in debt to government-owned financial institutions. This fund will help pay 2% for repayment of the loan by SMEs for a period of 2 years. Soft loans were set, with a low interest rate from government financial agencies with 0% interest, for a fixed amount of time, followed by a flexible payment return plan. Banks and financial institutions will be requested to show leniency in their approach towards loans given to hotel and or tour operators who are not financially secure. In addition, the government has allowed the companies to file the amount paid for seminar fees within the country and the allowance as an expense and to be calculated as double this amount.
- ◆ Promotion of domestic tourism: Domestic travel has also been on the agenda. A further US\$ 4.4 million has been allocated to bring 2.000 youths from each of the 75 provinces, in total 153.000 people, to travel around Thailand during April to June 2009. They have to be guided by professional tour agencies, use private tour coaches, stay in hotels, have their meals in restaurants and use certified guides. The project aims to encourage Thais to travel within Thailand and generate income in time of crisis. Also, to incentivize domestic meetings and seminars held outside Bangkok, organizers will be able to reduce tax payment by showing their seminar expenses. Additionally, the Convention and Exhibition Bureau has published a directory of the meetings industry venues in the country with information about business facilities in the five geographical areas of Thailand, aiming to boost awareness and confidence in Thailand as a dynamic business event destination.
- ◆ Reduction of landing and parking fees:
 - 50 % reduction of landing and parking fee at all airports under supervision of Department of Civil Aviation for scheduled flights and chartered flights until September 2009
 - 20 % reduction of landing and parking fee at all airports under supervision of Airport Authority of Thailand for scheduled flights until September 2009
 - 50% Reduction for chartered flights at Airports in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Hat Yai and Don Muang until October 2010

To ensure smooth operation of the new international airport, the draft Act on Safety and Security was promulgated. The measures also include planning and conducting rehearsals of airport emergency plans.

- ◆ A new Transit Passenger model: In February 2009, the Transit Passenger model was launched. Travelers changing planes in Bangkok will be facilitated within a shorter time and will be able to leave the international airport for tour programmes, arranged by the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) in cooperation with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). Under this initiative, a package tour was introduced in June 2009, for transfer passengers making a stopover of 6 to 12 hours at Suvarnabhumi International Airport to take short tours of Bangkok and the surrounding area.

Furthermore other stakeholders have also been very active. Thai Airways International, the national airline, and Bangkok Airways, the country's leading privately-owned airline, have introduced special promotional campaigns to boost international and domestic travel within, to and from Thailand. Also at local level, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has announced Bangkok's *Smile Card project* which will be launched in August. The BMA will introduce a boat pass, add information booths, and designate certain roads as walking streets. The *Smile Cards* are part of a wider campaign that tags Bangkok as a *City of Smiles*. About 100,000 Smile Cards are to be produced for tourists to pick up at BMA information booths. It will offer discounts for attractions, shopping, dining, night sightseeing, spa, golf, massage and medical treatment.

Finally, the Ministry has drafted the strategic plan 2010-2012 in order to stimulate tourism. Currently, a budget of THB\$ 16.9 billion (US 497 million) has been allocated for the plan but it might be increased to THB\$30 billion (US\$ 882 million) to be compatible with the plan. This strategic plan consists of infrastructure development, developing variety of activities in order to promote and rehabilitate tourism, security plan to secure tourism, staff development, market system development and image building.

Vietnam	<p>In order to attract tourists, the Government of Vietnam has set a tourism stimulus package with some preferential programmes of declining value added tax (VAT) and extending tax payment duration. Additionally, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism set up a tourism promotional campaign throughout the country. The campaign is focused on the reduction of tour prices, the development of new tourism products inside the country, on cooperating with neighbouring countries to package the international tours, as well as on the promotion of domestic tourism.</p> <p>According to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT), further efforts should be made to boost the number of domestic tourists. To do this, the VNAT proposes a strategic shift of the tourism sector to more aggressively lure local travelers. However, Vietnam's main strategy still relies on the sector's promotion campaigns, conducted in coordination with other sectors, including aviation and hotels, which aim to minimize the risks posed by both the financial crisis and the A(H1N1) flu outbreak.</p> <p>From August until the end of the year 2009, the tourism sector will attach special importance to deploying a series of national tourism promotion programmes and responding to programmes for the thousand-year Thang Long-Hanoi anniversary and national tourism year 2010. In addition, the Vietnamese government has recently given joint ventures green light to organize outbound tours and allowed, on a pilot basis, certain hotels to keep their entertainment venues open until 2 a.m.</p> <p>At the regional cooperation level, Cambodia and Vietnam have agreed to open 6 new border crossings to boost trade and travel. Initially, there was just one such gate at Bavet in Svay Rieng province. However, it is thanks to the new gates, from which three were already opened on July 2009, that Vietnam and Cambodia aim to boost the economy at the border, and cut the time spent by people looking to travel from one country to another or within the ASEAN region, and thus, to attract more tourists.</p> <p>Regarding air transport, Vietnam Airlines inaugurated Cambodia's new national carrier Cambodia Angkor Air on July 2009 at Phnom Penh International Airport. The new national carrier of Cambodia is a joint venture between the Cambodian government and Vietnam Airlines, Vietnam's national carrier. Cambodia owns a 51% stake in the company, and Vietnam owns the remainder.</p> <p>The same is happening within the country, where the departments of Culture, Sports and Tourism in four northern provinces (Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Cao Bang and Bac Kan) have signed a cooperation agreement to boost tourism development, expecting that accelerating coordination will help improve their appeal. Accordingly, the territories will help each other to take full advantage of each province to develop tourism, build tourism management and development mechanisms, and cooperate in developing tours, human resources, infrastructure, telecommunications and tourism promotion. As well, they will organize an annual 'tour of heritage sites' programme (first in Ha Giang, then Tuyen Quang, Cao Bang and Bac Kan).</p>
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EUROPE

Austria	<p>A specialized bank (the Austrian Tourism Development Bank), which is owned by the three largest Austrian banks, facilitates investment and improves liquidity of the tourism industry. In view of the economic crisis well-proven instruments have been expanded and new ones have been developed together with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth and the Federal Ministry of Finance. Amongst these instruments to be implemented for a period of maximum two years are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Subsidized loans to tourism SMEs; ◆ Bank guarantees with an increased/doubled liability (guarantee) limit of the Tourism Development Bank (€ 250 millions to € 500 millions in total, with a maximum of € 4 millions per company); ◆ Small grants for certain investments, i.e. non-refundable grants are given to tourism enterprises (TOP Tourismusförderung); ◆ Micro credits have been introduced as a new instrument for small investments (up to € 50,000) 2.5% interest rate per year; ◆ Bridge financing for maximum 2 years to stimulate investment in restructuring measures for those enterprises that are affected by the crisis. Companies which have been stable in economic terms in 2008 can extend their debit limit for a specific period of time based on a government guarantee. The state aid for bridge financing is not applicable for companies in difficulties. <p>Regarding marketing campaigns, the country is investing an additional sum of € 4 million geared towards the domestic market but also neighboring markets such as Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the Czech Republic, to maintain and activate demand and especially address these markets, which will be more resilient to the crisis.</p>
Belgium	<p>No measures specifically aimed at the tourism sector have been undertaken in Belgium. However the Flemish Recovery Plan consists of general stimulus aiming to strength the granting of credit lines to businesses, activate labor market policy, as well as to strengthen and accelerate public and private investments.</p>
Bulgaria	<p>Bulgaria has launched an upgrade of the airport of its second biggest city of Plovdiv in an attempt to lure tourists and boost cargo transport as the global economic downturn bites. The government will spend 40 million leva (US\$ 26.4 million) to build a new terminal and almost double plane stands to unclog traffic and increase the airport's capacity to 500.000 passengers annually.</p>
Croatia	<p>Croatia has increased the cooperation between the public and private sectors for tourism promotional activities. There are five major areas of co-promotion which include special promotional programmes for shoulder seasons, main seasons (different in value), air-destinations and domestic tourism. Additionally, the funds for promotion have been increased (almost 60% compared to last year) and there will be more presence in the global and other media. Croatia is also advancing in the area of travel facilitation with the abolition of tourist visas for Russians and Ukrainian nationals and tax cuts on hotels.</p>
Cyprus	<p>The government of Cyprus has put together a fiscal programme to address the actual downturn. Cyprus President announced a € 300 million financial package in a bid to boost the Mediterranean island's flagging tourism and construction sectors. Around € 51 million are earmarked for tourism, which includes tax and airport landing fee reductions. At the same time, a scheme to encourage Cypriots to holiday at home was also introduced.</p>

France	<p>One of the main measures implemented in France has been to set VAT of restaurants down to 5.5% effective from the 1st July 2009. This initiative is the culmination of a work undertaken for several months which resulted in an agreement reached by France within the European Union, to allow member countries to apply reduced rates in certain sectors. In the future, the VAT reduction will be returned to the sector and allocated to develop business and employment in catering according to a contract signed between the state and professional organization (contrat d'avenir pour la restauration). According to this, the savings generated by the tax cut will be entirely reflected on the sector. By this agreement, the professional organizations committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lower prices in 10 menu categories, so the reduction will be visible to the customers; - job creation through an enhancement of 40.000 supplementary places among temporal and training jobs; - improvement of the employee's conditions, especially in terms of remuneration, professional training and social security issues; and - continuation of the modernization of the sector.
Germany	<p><u>Measures taken by the tourism sector</u></p> <p>Due to their experience with previous crises (terrorist attacks, the SARS epidemic, the Gulf War, etc.), tour operators have learned how to deal with unpredictable situations. They exercise flexibility in capacity planning and can react promptly to fluctuations in demand. Accordingly, capacities for 2009 have been planned conservatively. Providers of tourism-related services are continuing to invest in their products, although they are certainly placing a priority on cost effectiveness. They expect that the tourism sector will emerge from the crisis in a stronger position and will quickly resume the growth that characterized previous years.</p> <p>In the area of promotion, the German National Tourist Board (DZT) has fine-tuned its tourism marketing by adopting the motto <i>Affordable Hospitality – Great Deals, Easy Booking</i>. The DZT aims to draw foreign tourists' attention to the inexpensive travel opportunities available in Germany. A special new marketing campaign for domestic and international travelers by the German National Tourist Board (GNTB) will focus on Germany's excellent value for money.</p> <p><u>Measures taken by the Federal and Länder governments</u></p> <p>At the global level, the Federal Government's first stimulus package (Konjunkturpaket I), that was adopted on 5 November 2008, supports investments and contracts targeting companies, private households and municipalities. Furthermore, measures were taken to secure financing and liquidity for companies in order to bolster investment financing. The second stimulus package (Konjunkturpaket II), known as the <i>Pact for Employment and Stability</i>, was adopted on 14 January 2009. The main elements of this package include the promotion of investment for the purpose of modernizing the country; labor market policies that prevent layoffs; tax relief and support for families; support for the automotive industry and innovative companies; the securing of credit for businesses; and the introduction of limits on government borrowing. The Federal Government has earmarked a total of roughly €80 billion for the two stimulus packages.</p> <p>In addition to the Federal Government's two stimulus packages, the Länder have also taken measures to secure growth and jobs. The credit and guarantee programmes operated by the promotional and guarantee banks of the Länder have been revised or re-launched in response to the current crisis. The Länder have increased the funding available for guarantees or are prepared to do so if necessary. They have also decided to fast-track infrastructural investments and have adopted additional investment programmes. And in numerous Länder, companies seeking advice can contact telephone hotlines to obtain the information they need.</p> <p>All of these support measures are available to companies in the tourism sector.</p>

	<p>The Federal Government's tourism policy guidelines address the primary challenges that will face the tourism sector in the future, particularly demographic shifts, climate change, and the increasing pressure of competition due to globalization processes. These guidelines aim to optimize the policy conditions for Germany's tourism sector. At the same time, they constitute an appeal to the tourism industry to tailor their offerings to a changing clientele by ensuring high quality, promoting relevant skills and qualifications, and developing new products and services.</p>
Greece	<p>The measures introduced by the Greek Tourism Ministry are aimed at promoting Greece abroad, improving workers' benefits and training, helping tourism businesses cut costs, improving tourism infrastructure, services and businesses, and injecting liquidity into the sector by means of financial aids and tax reduction.</p> <p>Measures taken by Greece include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase of 50% of advertising budgets for this year's promotion campaign abroad. ◆ Cut of municipal taxes for a period of one to two years: these include the Uniform Property Tax on buildings and land, which is reduced from 0.6% to 0.033% of the property's value for the years 2009 and 2010; a one-year suspension of a fee levied by banks on the sum of loans taken out by tourist enterprises; and a tariff levied by local government for the stay of travelers, which is reduced from 2% to 0.5%. The lost revenue for local government will be compensated for by an increase in funds from vehicle road taxes. ◆ Return of any VAT due by the local tax offices. ◆ Support to the tourism businesses through capital guarantee in collaboration with the Guarantee Fund for Small and Very Small Enterprises (T.E.M.P.M.E). Tourism enterprises will also be able to get start-up capital with fully subsidized interest, up to the sum of € 350,000 from the Guarantee Fund. ◆ Implementation of a large investment plan through the NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework), which provides funding for activities involving tourist infrastructure, services and enterprises. ◆ Payment of subsidies due to the tourist enterprises included in the Investment Law under the Public Investment Programme. In addition, tourism enterprises will be eligible for funding under the <i>Programme for Reinforcing Liquidity in the Economy</i>. ◆ Strengthen domestic tourism by increasing the number of state-subsidized 'social tourism' tickets offered via the Labor Housing Organization (OEE) by 21%, after last year's increase of 41%. ◆ Transformation of the Hellenic Chamber of Hotels into a Tourism Chamber. ◆ Special policies to attract Chinese visitors: the new policies will allow Chinese travelers to get a tourist visa more easily. The Greek government is also encouraging Chinese travelers, but especially newly-married couples, to apply for a tourist visa directly, and travel by themselves. ◆ Installation of Wi-Fi systems in airports, busy tourist areas and in archaeological sites: this initiative will be continued in other areas to facilitate communications for the visitors and at the same time help them to be fully informed about the history and culture of Greece. <p>In terms of human and other resources, the government has decided to deal with the long-standing problem of regulating the operation of hotels, to convert the seasonal unemployment benefit into an employment benefit, to run a training programme combining theoretical and on-the-job training, in which the enterprises participating will be obliged to employ 30% of those trained.</p> <p>The Ministry also plans to propose another draft law in Parliament, by September 2009, envisaging a stricter supervision of casino operations and the upgrading of the Greek National Tourism Organization's offices abroad, and the opening of new offices in South</p>

	<p>Africa, Poland, Ukraine and India. Furthermore, the government is preparing a package of special benefits to any body that will choose Greece for organizing conferences. The package will include free movement of delegates by public transport and in special cases even subsidize the cost of the conference center.</p> <p>Additional aid measures have been proposed in collaboration of the Ministers of Transport and Tourism together with the Civil Aviation Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The first and most important is the decision to suspend the collection of fees in regional airports from early April until the end of September, including course fees and accommodation of aircraft on the ground, virtually eliminating regional airports' fees of 10 to 12 euro per person, and subsequently reducing costs airlines and tour operators. ◆ Reforming airports during the tourist season, to show the best possible image of the country. ◆ Preparing, along with the Civil Aviation Authority, some actions for the development of air sports in the country, especially ultra light aviation, parachuting, hang-gliding, paragliding, and model aircraft. The idea is to develop the appropriate aero clubs and necessary infrastructure targeting this specific type of tourism, to increase tourist flows as well as alternative forms of tourism. ◆ Working on a comprehensive plan for developing general aviation airports, which are small airports that can host a sophisticated infrastructure to host Lear jets.
Hungary	<p>The state administration of tourism, the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) attaches great importance to the utilization of EU funds eligible for tourism development in order to improve the attractiveness of the tourism supply of Hungary and make it more competitive. The MoLG promotes investment initiatives in the field of tourism by elaborating and implementing investment promotion programmes (conferences, brochures, providing assistance).</p> <p>The Hungarian National Tourist Office, Magyar Turizmus (MT), elaborated its new marketing strategy (2009-2011) and marketing plan (for 2009) with consideration of the impacts of the financial and economic crisis. Based on these considerations the HNTTO continuously analyzes the demand of domestic and foreign tourists as well as travel habits and monitors the trends in tourism statistics. HNTTO will focus its activities on the domestic market and on the neighboring countries and short-haul destinations.</p>
Israel	<p>Despite the economic crisis Israel will keep developing marketing campaigns around the globe and reinforcing campaigns in specific markets. It will study the necessity of making adjustments in tourism messages and in target audiences, focusing on maintaining the existing marketing channels. Consequently, two promotional campaigns have been launched to target tourists from France and the USA.</p> <p>In this respect, in May 2009 the Tourism Ministry launched a NIS\$ 3 million (US\$ 800 thousand) campaign in France aimed at increasing the number of French tourists to the country. Also in July 2009, the government launched a multi-year campaign to encourage travel of Jewish and non-Jewish persons from USA to Israel. For this purpose, a NIS\$ 38 million (US\$ 10 million) budget was assigned to increase activities and partnerships with Jewish organizations, as well as joint efforts with other Israeli government ministries.</p> <p>As for human resources policy, Israel has decided to help companies maintain employment and avoid firing professionals from the tourism industry in order to be able to react properly in times of recovery. On the other hand, the country is making additional efforts for tourism facilitation. For instance, on July 2009, the Prime Minister of Israel announced the cancellation of plans to impose a 16.5% VAT on the purchase of foreign tourist services in Israel, proposed by the Treasury as part of the Economic Law of Arrangements. He had also agreed to waive the addition of VAT on fruit and vegetables.</p>

	<p>Moreover, after the experience of a bilateral agreement signed between Israel and Russia by which visa requirements for both Israeli and Russian tourists have been cancelled, Israel is currently considering the possibility of signing a similar visa-free agreement with Ukraine.</p>
Italy	<p>Response measures by the Italian Government are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Social help to lower income families: this measure envisages special discounts for holidays in Italy during the low and mid season, so as to help families going on holidays and, at the same time, keep the hotel industry working in the off-peak season. ◆ Marketing partnership with France and Spain: this partnership involves co-marketing operations aimed at building common travel products and attracting, as a unique destination, tourists from emerging and long haul markets. ◆ The Government has negotiated with five major Italian banks terms of access to credit facilities, up to a total amount of 1.6 billion Euros, for SMEs operating in the tourism sector.
Netherlands	<p>The government wants the Dutch aviation industry to become more competitive by becoming more sustainable. This means cutting costs and being innovative. Thus, as part of the economic stimulus, the government has taken the decision to abolish the recently introduced departure tax, which added a cost of between € 11 to € 45 for each passenger departing from Dutch airports for flights within and outside Europe. Additionally the aviation industry has also undertaken to cost cuts. For instance, KLM has decided that effective immediately it will stop charging the tax to its passengers: The tax will no longer apply on flights leaving from 1 July 2009. Passengers who have already purchased a KLM ticket that departs on or after this date will be refunded their ticket tax without being charged any administrative costs.</p> <p>Regarding sustainability, the government will stimulate measures to limit nuisance and quieter, cleaner flights. The Netherlands is already known in sustainable aviation thanks to its fuel policy and on-board weight reduction measures. Additionally, it will collaborate with industry players to launch a knowledge and innovation agenda in summer 2009, with the aim of making Schiphol the world's first climate-neutral airport by 2040, both on the ground and in the air.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Netherlands is strengthening advertising efforts. For instance: the <i>cityzapping</i> campaign launched by the Netherland Board of Tourism & Conventions (NBTC) to promote the country as a multiple city destination, considering the short distance between the cities and train transport offer; and previous examples of NBTC collaboration with Expedia to launch a large-scale and ground-breaking online marketing campaign to highlight that Holland offers great value for money and great vacations as well, and the joint promotion with the Amsterdam Tourism & Conventions Board (ATCB), offering a total of 1.001 free hotel nights to tourists for sprint time booking.</p>
Norway	<p>No measures specifically aimed at the tourism sector have been undertaken in Norway. However the Norwegian Government has presented a general stimulus package consisting of some fiscal and monetary policy as well as some stimulus oriented to carry on investment in infrastructure. The Norwegian general stimulus package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Change of tax regulations to improve the liquidity of industrial companies; ◆ Increased municipal budgets to make it possible to renovate and build new schools, nursing homes and churches, etc; ◆ Increased communications budget to undertake maintenance and investments in railways, roads and harbours nationwide; ◆ Establishment of a Norwegian State Finance Fund to strengthen the banks' core capital;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establishment of a Norwegian State Bond Fund Norway's central bank has also repeatedly reduced the interest rate.
Portugal	<p>To deal with the potential impact of the current economic downturn on tourism, Portugal has developed specific measures for the tourism sector such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hard selling campaigns with tour operators and airlines from the traditional main markets; ◆ Domestic tourism advertisement campaign; ◆ € 500 million credit line in benefit of tourism industry; ◆ € 50 million credit line in benefit of restaurants.
Slovakia	<p>The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic established the Monitoring Committee of Global Crisis Impacts on Entrepreneurs, whose main task is to monitor the current situation and the impacts of the financial and economic crisis on small and medium-sized enterprises; particularly, in the field of employment, effectiveness of management, sales possibilities and export capability. The committee is intended to propose and recommend specific measures to minimize the possible negative effects.</p> <p>Subsequently, in January 2009, the Government set up the Council for Economic Crisis, with the task to alleviate the impacts of the global economic crisis. Additionally, in order to suggest and adopt effective measures, the Ministry of Economy, together with the Slovak Tourist Board, are monitoring the situation in the tourism sector and collecting information from relevant subjects. For example, self-governing regions, tourism associations and entrepreneurs in the field of tourism.</p> <p>On the other hand, the package of measures approved by the Slovak Government in February 2009 comprises a territorial limitation for holiday stays exclusively on the national territory to the public force organs and pensioners paid with the state's budget. By this measure the government aims to support domestic tourism thanks to a better use of existing capacities and to increase domestic consumption.</p> <p>The Government of the Slovak Republic also intends to introduce a system of holiday checks in Slovakia as an important tool of supporting domestic tourism in accordance with the New Tourism Development Strategy and the State Tourism Policy of the Slovak Republic, adopted in 2007. The aim of this measure is to stimulate domestic tourism demand, make tourism more accessible to domestic population, increase the participation of domestic people in tourism activities and enhance the occupancy rate in Slovak accommodation facilities. However, some issues relating to the taxation of these checks still have to be addressed.</p>

Slovenia	<p>The measures adopted by Slovenia specifically for the tourism industry are mainly marketing oriented. Firstly, the Government has earmarked an additional budget of €1.5 million for joint marketing communication campaigns for the tourism industry and local/regional partners, with up to 60% of the amount financed by the Ministry of Economy. Moreover, further marketing activities have been focused on the domestic market, and more information about the crisis influences has been prepared for those involved directly or indirectly in the tourism sector. However, priority measures to tackle the economic crisis focus on strengthening bank liquidity to reinforce the business' access to investment funds for development projects, which will also benefit the tourism sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strengthening the investment cycle for the development of tourism infrastructure within the framework of the promotion of tourism entrepreneurship and competitiveness. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further support for small and medium-sized enterprises; - Investment in public tourism infrastructure; - Support for the development of sustainable management in tourism companies and destinations; - Promotion by increasing the quality of tourism products and services; - Promotion of innovation; - Development of human resources to meet the needs of the tourism sector; - Support for the preservation and implementation of sustainable development in tourism (balanced and harmonized structural policies and implementation of measures to increase competitiveness in Slovenian tourism). ◆ Strengthening activities related to promotion and marketing. The Slovenian Tourist Board is working in close cooperation with the tourism industry to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize more marketing communication campaigns (co-financed by the tourism industry) in traditional markets, particularly in neighboring countries and in markets less affected by the crisis; - Organize more expert meetings, educational workshops and study trips for the purpose of improving professionalism and the knowledge needed for the planning, design, management and marketing of tourism services; - Provide further training in tourism destination management; - Set up an incubator network with the aim of promoting innovation in tourism; - Launch additional advertising campaigns intended for the general public in domestic and foreign mass media; - Intensify public relations activities (additional study trips for journalists); - Strengthen the thematic consumer campaign <i>Taste Slovenia</i> in the short and medium haul markets; - Take a more active approach in the development of new air routes in cooperation with the national airline; - Intensify the promotion in the domestic market within the framework of the campaign <i>home sweet home</i> taking advantage of the trend of increased holiday-making by Slovenes in their own country; - Strengthen e-marketing and website advertising in the domestic and neighboring markets; - Strengthen the monitoring of the market and the provision of information to key stakeholders on overall developments in tourism in Slovenia, and at the European and international level (EC, UNWTO, ETC, OECD). <p>Additional actions have been implemented in the fields of the labor market, lifelong learning and social security; infrastructure, energy and environment for sustainable development; and improvement of the benefits from the Cohesion Funds, which will also benefit the tourism sector.</p>
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Spain	<p>The State Secretariat for Tourism of Spain has made available a financial help of € 1.000 million under the <i>Plan Renove</i> (Plan Renew), in order to finance investments to renovate tourism infrastructures in the country. In addition, the Secretariat is offering € 2 million on direct subsidies through the Support Programme for Innovating Companies in the tourist sector, to companies that present plans for innovation aimed at improving their competitiveness.</p> <p>The <i>Plan Renove</i> is part of the Spanish stimulus programme for economy and employment recovery, known as <i>Plan E</i>, which includes all the measures taken by the Government to sustain economic activity and to lay the foundations for sustainable growth in the future. Through it the Spanish government aims to promote the rehabilitation of tourism facilities, adding value and therefore improving the quality and the sustainability of the tourism infrastructure.</p> <p>Tourism accommodations units and travel agencies are obtaining credits for the renovation and modernization of their infrastructures (at an interest rate well below the open market). The first leg of the plan, offering € 400 million, financed 1.000 projects, entailing a final investment of € 800 million. Furthermore, the <i>Plan E</i> is meant to benefit other sectors such as construction and ancillary industries, by creating jobs and boosting the multiplier effect of tourism. In the medium term, it is expected to improve the country's attractiveness, promote sustainability and an efficient use of energy, help environment preservation, favor the introduction of new technologies and improve management and marketing.</p> <p>Additionally, through the Support Programme for Innovating Companies in the tourism sector, the State Secretariat for Tourism is offering € 2 million for direct subsidies to companies that present plans for innovation aimed at the improvement of their competitiveness. The aim of this programme is to encourage competitiveness through innovation, also in times of economic downturn.</p>
Tajikistan	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan has simplified visa application process whilst the Ministry of Internal Affairs has approved an extension of stay for tourists without registration. Moreover, some taxes applied to tourists were abolished, for instance, those related to accommodation and to the use of nature.</p>
Turkey	<p>Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism is collaborating with the private sector to overcome the impact of the current crisis on tourism. Activities include co-advertising campaigns, on-line campaigns, familiarization tours, workshops and road shows in the country's main source markets.</p> <p>Still, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey is confident in the strength of domestic and short-haul tourism. Thus, the government is taking measures such as holiday credits and discounts on early booking for domestic tourism and enhancing cooperation with neighboring countries with common cultural ties, like for instance, the Balkans and Middle East countries on the Caucasus. Additionally, the Ministry stresses on Turkey's experience on all inclusive products and its high quality-price ratio. Moreover, the Ministry is analyzing a variety of stimulus to develop Turkish tourism sector as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tax concession ◆ Incentives renovation ◆ Employment facilitation

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt	<p>Egypt's strategy for overcoming the global economic crisis includes strengthening partnerships with scheduled airlines, joint marketing initiatives with trade, systematic gathering and analysis of feeder market intelligence and encouraging industry to value-add rather than decrease prices.</p> <p>As over 85% of travel to the country is generated by air, the Ministry of Tourism is proactively working to strengthen its alliance with the airline industry. The key measures being taken are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction of a new formula for take-off and landing fees for new operators and encouraging the reduction of those fees for existing operators to and from all airports in Egypt; ◆ Strengthening partnerships with scheduled airlines from all our source markets so that they maintain their load capacities to Egypt; ◆ Working on marketing campaigns with the airlines – by advertising in their in-flight magazines, and providing them with material for their in-flight entertainment programs; ◆ Supporting incentive programme for charter flights and low cost carriers operating to all airports in main tourist destinations that are currently operating below full capacity <p>Further, the Ministry is systematically gathering and analyzing market intelligence and aggressively pursuing its key tourism markets by reaching out to them in person. It is also strengthening ties with its partners in the tourism trade and intensifying joint (co-marketing) activities as well as increasing its global promotional budgets.</p> <p>Developing a tactical and segmented approach rather than a generic approach to marketing and conducting roundtable discussions with Egypt's private sector to assess impact and determine appropriate actions are other measures being taken by the Egyptian Ministry during the crisis. The Ministry is proactively encouraging the industry to use alternative promotional tools and value-added packages to appeal to consumers on tighter budgets, instead of slashing prices. It is taking stock of the industry's internal strengths and weaknesses, and focusing on training, skills, and human resource development within the tourism sector. It has also announced that it will withhold all additional new taxes that affect the decision to travel. Negotiations with the banking sector are also being held to enable debt re-scheduling and loan facilitation for serious tourism investors and businesses in need of a helping hand.</p>
Jordan	<p>In Jordan, the government has approved a number of measures to boost tourism in the Kingdom, including a drop in Royal Jordanian ticket prices and a reduction on hotel rate sales tax from 14% to 8%. The new measures also include streamlining entry procedures for citizens from India, China, and Romania.</p> <p>In the area of marketing, the Jordan Tourist Board (JTB) was instrumental in bringing tour operators and agency representatives from the USA, Canada and South America to the first Jordan Travel Mart early 2009 in an effort to increase tourist traffic from these markets, particularly from Brazil, Chile and Argentina that are growing markets. Jordan hopes to lure more Latin American tourists with the unveiling of a new marketing campaign later in 2009. The cross-media effort will put a strong emphasis on e-marketing. The JTB has been at the forefront of promoting the country's main attractions, diverse tourism products and appeal as a year-round holiday destination, and the authority has now honed its approach to target tourists with specific tastes. In addition to the South American</p>

	<p>market, the JTB is looking at expanding its geographical representation to include China and India. It has recently launched two websites targeting tourists from China and Hong Kong (China).</p>
Oman	<p>The Ministry of Tourism of Oman has launched its largest ever marketing campaign in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries on February 22, 2009 under the banner <i>Partnership Oman</i>. Running for 4 months, the campaign is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Tourism, Oman Air and is supported by Oman's major hotels and resorts. The GCC is Oman's largest tourism market and has seen significant growth in visitor arrivals by both air and road in recent years. The Ministry will also specifically develop the Saudi Arabia market which is seen to have untapped potential.</p> <p>As part of the campaign, the Ministry of Tourism, Oman Air, and major hotels are running trade briefings in all GCC markets. Various promotion activities at major shopping malls across AGCC countries have been initiated to reach out to discerning travelers. At key malls across the GCC, customers will be able to watch video presentations about Oman as a unique tourist destination as well as pick up literature about Oman's Short Breaks. The campaign coincides with the Oman Air's ongoing expansion aimed at boosting connectivity. By the end of March 2009, Oman Air will operate around 120 services per week to GCC city gateways, a vast improvement its current schedules.</p>
Qatar	<p>Qatar is supporting investment on tourism infrastructure and the development of sustainable events. Qatar's Tourism and Exhibitions Authority has recently launched a new strategy to grow the tourism industry in Qatar by 20% in the next five years. The goal is to develop an upscale destination reputed for quality and excellence, by guiding the development of sustainable events and supporting infrastructure. The State is making a total investment of US\$ 17 billion over the next five years on tourism infrastructure, including the construction of luxury hotels, resorts and other leisure facilities.</p>
Saudi Arabia	<p>In Saudi Arabia, the government has massively stepped up its role in supporting its hospitality and tourism sector, with a new national tourism plan set to be published this year. The Saudi Finance Ministry prioritized the promotion of tourism in the 2009 budget, boosting its allocation by 11% to SR385 million (US\$ 102 million), following a 56% raise to SR347 million (US\$ 93 million) in 2008.</p> <p>Further, the Saudi government has approved bank financing to process loans to fund heritage projects for small and medium size enterprises.</p> <p>In May 2009, the Arab Tourism Ministers attended a meeting in Yemen, where they discussed plans of action for promoting tourism among Arab countries. They also discussed a proposal to issue a unified visa for foreign tourists wishing to visit any of the Arab states, similar to the Schengen visa in Europe. According to the Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities (SCTA), there is a need to promote inter-Arab tourism and achieve tourism integration as a step toward the economic integration of Arab states.</p> <p>On the other hand, the SCTA is focusing its efforts towards domestic tourism. Their main objective is to be able to provide domestic tourist with the same international standards of tourism services and prices consistent with such levels of service. Accordingly, some measures have been proposed by the SCTA to boost jobs in the sector. First, the Commission is looking to establish tourism professional associations to take responsibility of developing human resources. Second, the creation of a committee for supervising the</p>

	<p><i>On-Job training programme</i>, in collaboration with the Human Resources Development Fund and the Ministry of Labor for Labor Affairs. This programme aims to hire qualified job seekers for a training period in order to alleviate the job market.</p>
Syrian Arab Republic	<p>Syria is taking three main measures to overcome the economic crises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Easing entry visa restrictions to Iraqi tourists: Damascus is easing entry visa restrictions to Iraqi tourists after 17 months of strict regulations. The Syrian Immigration Department's new regulations require tourists to be part of a group and enter the country only through Damascus International Airport. Further, tourists should have a return ticket, at least SYP\$ 1,000 in cash and should leave their passports at the tourist office after arrival.◆ Increasing flights by the national carriers to attract more regional tourists: in a bid to attract more regional tourists, Syrian Arab Airline has increased flights to the Arabian Gulf to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Doha◆ Improved destination marketing and promotion of the destination: the Ministry of Tourism, along with Syrian Airlines, is also participating in a number of tourism fairs and exhibitions in Europe as part of its marketing and promotion campaign for Syria.