"The Practice of Low Impact, Educational, Ecological and Culturally Sensitive Travel That not only Benefits Local Communities and Host Countries but also conserves and preserves their heritage, art, lifestyle and practices."

Eco tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the tourism industry, literally growing at the rate of 10 to 15 percent worldwide and equally unmindful of the damage that is emerging especially in the African and Asian countries. Out of this concern was born: THE ECOTOURISM SOCIETY OF INDIA. A reversal is likely to be in place if tourism is practiced in a more responsible manner.

The pan India series’ fifth Eco Tourism Society of India (ESOI) workshop titled PRACTICING RESPONSIBLE TOURISM for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry has a few preludes and a clear agenda to move forward. While networking people and organizations, it will also take stock of where we are today. There is a need to surely think global and act local. Considering the eco-specifics of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the workshop will focus on the following aspects:

- Coastal Zone Regulation.
- Hill-area development
- Protection and conservation of heritage buildings
- Art & culture preservation.
- Wild life protection.
- Environmental laws and their enforcement
- Media’s contribution to practicing responsible tourism
- Mass tourism products and their impacts.

Speakers have been identified with the above in mind across India. The challenge is to run the workshop in a manner that it travels through the identified issues and set a direction forward

- Definition and Elements of Eco Tourism & Responsible Tourism
- Current Resources, Linkages, vogue, etc
- Global thinking and practices
- Voicing concerns of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- Responsible tourism Practices & Government initiatives
- Media’s role in propagating & upholding responsible tourism
- Some success stories and case studies
EOSI Workshop on ‘PRACTISING RESPONSIBLE TOURISM’
on 26th and 27th November 2010 at INDeco Hotels, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

PROGRAM

Day 1

26th November, 2010, FRIDAY

8:00 AM
Registration begins.

9:00 AM
Welcome - Mr. Steve Borgia.
Founder Member, ESOI
CMD, INDeco Leisure Hotels
E-mail: steve@indecohotels.com

Introduction to ESOI and the workshop

Mr. Mandip Singh Soin
Founder President, ESOI
MD, Ibex Expeditions
E-mail: mandipsinghsoin@gmail.com
10:00 - 11:20 AM

**Technical Session - ONE**

**ELEMENTS OF ECO TOURISM AND RESPONSIBLE TOURISM**

**Speaker one:**

**Mr. Jose Dominic,**

Founder Member, ESOI.

MD, CGH

E-mail: josedominic@cghearth.com

Subject: *Elements of Eco Tourism & Responsible Tourism.*

**Speaker two:**

**Mr. C. B. Ramkumar**

MD, Our Native Village

E-mail: cbramkumar@nativeresorts.com

Subject: *Practicing responsible tourism/Our Native Village - a case study*

**Speaker three:**

**Mr. Steve Borgia**

Subject: *Responsible Rural Tourism as an aggressive and impressive business model.*

E-mail: steve@indecohotels.com

**Discussion**

11:20 - 11:35 PM

Tea break

11:35 - 12:55 PM
Technical session - TWO

CURRENT SCENARIO AND FUTURE RESPONSIBILITY OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN TAMIL NADU AND PUDUCHERRY

Moderator: Mr. Mandip Singh Soin

Speaker one:

**Mr. Aman Nath**

MD, Neemrana

E-mail: aman@neemranahotels.com

Subject: **Converting national waste into assets: Whose responsibility?**

Speaker two:

**Mr. S. Muthiah**

Historian & Columnist, the Hindu

E-mail: smuthiah.mes@gmail.com

Subject: **Aspects of conservation and restoration of heritage buildings: a Tamil Nadu perspective.**

**Mr. Mathew Samuel,**

Director of Tourism, Govt. of Puducherry

Subject: **Conservation and restoration of heritage zones - The Puducherry perspective**

Speaker three:

**Discussion**

12.55 - 2.00 PM

LUNCH

2.00 - 3.20 PM
Technical Session - THREE

RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES/ GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE, GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Moderator: Mr. Francis Wacziarg

Speaker one:

Mr. Jose Dominic

Subject: Defining adverse tourism projects and tourist behavior.

E-mail: josedominic@cqhearth.com

Speaker two:

Mr. Niranjan Khatri

GM, ITC Hotels

Email: niranjan.khatri@itcwelcomgroup.in

Subject: ITC Initiative

Speaker three:

Mr. Ashok Panda

INTACH, Puducherry

E-mail: ashokpan@yahoo.com

Subject: Institutional Support for conservation & preservation and the INTACH Puducherry experience,

Discussion

3:20 - 4:40 PM
Technical Session - FOUR

IMPACT OF TIMESHARE AND OTHER MASS TOURISM PRODUCTS

Moderator: Mr. Steve Borgia

Speaker one:

Ms. Radhika Shastry
MD, RCI, INDIA
E-mail: indiarci@rci.com
Subject: RCI Initiative

Speaker two:

Mr. Peter Martin
Head, Operations, Mahindra Holidays
E-mail: peter.martin@mahindraholidays.com
Subject: The Club Mahindra Group Vision

Speaker three:

Dr. M. K. Ajith Kumar.
MD, Global Conference Management Group, Chennai
E-mail: ajit@gcmg.in
Subject: Destination carrying capacity and impacts of irresponsible tourism.

Discussion
4:40 – 4:55 PM

Tea Break
4:55 – 5:15 PM
Technical Session - FIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS IN RELATION TO TOURISM SECTOR AND CASE STUDIES

Moderator:

Mr. R. Chandramohan IAS
Chief Secretary, Government of Pondicherry

Speaker one:

Dr. P. Jeganathan
Wildlife Scientist, Nature Conservation Foundation
E-mail: jegan@ncf-india.org
Subject: Sustainable & Eco-friendly tourism - Western Ghats

Speaker two:

Mr. N. L. Rajah
Trustee, Citizen Consumer & Civic Action, Chennai
E-mail: nlrajah.advocate@gmail.com, nlraja@sify.com
Subject: Environmental Laws and case studies

Speaker three:

Mr. Mohandas, IFS
Asst. Superintending Archeologist, ASI
Subject: Tourism & Cultural Heritage - Monuments @ Mahabalipuram

Discussion
6:15 - 7:35 PM
8:00 PM
Gala Dinner
Day 2

27th November 2010, SATURDAY.
9:00 – 10:20 AM

Technical Session – SIX

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION & RURAL PROJECTS

Moderator:

Mr. Sujith Banerjee IAS
Former Secretary of Tourism, Government of India

Speaker one:

Mr. M.G. Rao
Chief Conservator of Forests, Puducherry
E-mail: grmasina@yahoo.co.in
Subject: Managing Regions Flora & Fauna and Eco-sensitive Destinations

Speaker two:

Mr. Dharmalingam Venugopal
Environmentalist, Save Nilgiris, Ooty
E-mail: dvenu@vsnl.net, dharmalingamvenu@gmail.com
Subject: Promoting Responsible Tourism in the Nilgiris

Speaker three:

Mr. Mandip Singh Soin
President ESOI
E-mail: mandipsinghsoin@gmail.com
Subject: Global Best Practices in Tourism
Discussion
10:20 – 11:40 AM

**Technical Session - SEVEN**

**MEDIA’S ROLE IN PRACTICING RESPONSIBLE TOURISM**

Moderator: Mr. C.B. Ramkumar

Speaker one:

**Mr. Nirmal**

Chief, Exnora

E-mail: mbnirmal@gmail.com

Subject: Practicing responsible tourism - A community approach.

Speaker Two:

**Ms. Soma Basu**

The Hindu

E-mail: sirishoma@gmail.com

Subject: Media’s role in practicing responsible tourism

Speaker three:

Mr. Niranjan Khatri

E-mail: niranjan.khatri@itcwelcomgroup.in

Subject: Creativity and Viral Strategy in ITC Hotels

Discussion
11:40 - 11:55 AM

Tea break
11:55 - 1:15 PM
Last technical session - EIGHT

MANAGING ECOLOGY; CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Speaker:
Dr. Venu V.

E-mail: venu@nic.in

Secretary, Kerala Tourism

Subject: Case Studies on Kerala RTinitiatives

Discussion

Open House

Workshop Ends