Activities since April 2013

Tourism Minister meets Travel and Trade Associations
On 18th July, 2013 the Hon’ble Minister of Tourism invited India’s travel and trade associations as well as State Tourism Departments to Delhi. Mr. Mandip Singh Soin along with Mr. Toby Sinclair on behalf of ESOI used this opportunity to highlight its objectives and activities.

First Meeting of the Odisha Ecotourism Board
At the first meeting of “Odisha Ecotourism Board” which was held on 14th August, 2013 in Bhubaneswar, Mr. Mandip Singh Soin was invited to give a presentation on Ecotourism to the State Govt of Odisha.

He gave an overview and inputs on issues in ecotourism in India. By identifying areas for ecotourism projects, and formulating an ecotourism policy and a related action plan for Odisha, the board with support of ESOI has paved its way for successfully developing Odisha as an upcoming ecotourism destination in India.

Mr. Soin also invited Odisha Government to be on board as ESOI Grand Patron Member, and also proposed to hold a workshop between November—March for the Govt and Industry stakeholders.

Meeting on Investment Promotion for Ecotourism in Jharkhand
On 6th August, 2013, ESOI participated in a dialogue with stakeholders of promoting nature and culture tourism that was organized by the Government of Jharkhand in Delhi. The discussion aimed at identifying steps to promote hospitality and tourism investments that contribute to sustainable tourism-driven development in the State of Jharkhand. Ms. Seema Bhatt on behalf of ESOI made a short presentation on ESOI activities and also offered ESOI consultation and to hold 2-day workshop in Ranchi with State funding support. She also invited the State to become ESOI Grand Patron Member. Bhopal International Conference on Sustainable Tourism BICST 2013
Ecotourism Society of India and Madhya Pradesh Tourism supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India jointly hosted Bhopal International Conference on Sustainable Tourism (BICST 2013) from 18th to 19th April 2013. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. R. Parasuram, Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh. During the two-day conference, 27 international and national speakers shared their experiences and ideas on the topic “Tourism: Enabler for Conservation, Livelihood and Sustainable Growth” with 150 national and international delegates. In a variety of technical sessions and interactive discussions the national level ecotourism framework in India as well as international best practices of multi-stakeholder involvement were emphasized. ESOI also circulated the conference proceedings document to all delegates and members, post the conference.

Meeting on Certification
In the context of our larger objective of certification of service providers, a round table meeting was held at WWF India Secretariat on 15th July, 2013 with senior executives of TOFT and SYCOM

Projects Consultants (who conduct Pugmark rating on behalf of TOFT).

The meeting aimed at intensifying cooperation between TOFT and ESOI and to jointly develop a Sustainable Tourism Certification.

Subsequently, a core meeting was held on 17th August, 2013 to review various criteria as available such as STCI, so as to narrow down the same to make it relevant and implementable as a baby step towards certification.

Expression of Interest: Preparation of Eco-Tourism Management Plan for Vedanayam area in Tamil Nadu
A joint proposal for Expression of Interest with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) was submitted to Integrated Coastal Zone Management of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India for preparation of Ecotourism Management Plan for Vedanayam area in Tamil Nadu in the 2nd week of August, 2013.

ESOI office shifted to Safdarjung Enclave in June 2013
In order to have a more self-contained environment at lesser costs, ESOI shifted its office from Bhikaji Cama Place to B-2 Block, Safdarjung Enclave, South Delhi.

New Recruitment
Mr. Rakesh Suri has been appointed on 15th July, 2013 as Executive—Admin & Support. He shall be handling membership communication and support. Email: support@ecotourismsocietyofindia.org.

Announcements

Upcoming Publications: Handbook On Ecotourism And Environment – A Ready reckoner for Practitioners
The handbook is compiled by ESOI and shall be published in its fourth edition soon. The books introduces the reader to different issues in practicing sustainable tourism, it shows good practices, guidelines and national international standards for the same and includes a comprehensive register of organizations, institutions and businesses who are involved in this field.

“Responsible Tourism Issues And Practices: Lessons From Guwahati and Aurangabad Workshops”
Contains the inputs of 25 speakers, which were made during the 10th and 11th ESOI workshops in Guwahati and Aurangabad.

Governing Body Members (for the period 2011-2013)

Mr. Mandip Singh Soin FRSG
Managing Director, Ibex Expeditions Ptd. Ltd.
President

Mr. Rakesh Mathur
Director & Principal Advisor – Zinc Hospitalities and Cross Roads Hotels, Specialty Restaurants
Vice President

Mr. Toby Sinclair
Wildlife Film Maker
Vice President

Ms. Seema Bhatt
Independent Consultant, Biodiversity, Ecotourism & Climate Change
Honorary Secretary

Mr. Krishna Kumar Singh
Former MLA, Madhya Pradesh, and Environmentalist
Treasurer

Mr. Steve Borgia
MD, Indeco Hotels, Tamil Nadu
Mr. Jose Dominic
MD, CGH Earth Hotels, Kochi, Kerala

Mr. Suhail Gupta
CEO, India Safari & Tours Pvt. Ltd
Mr. Venu V. IAS
Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India
Mr. Anirudh Chaoji
Director, Pugmarks Ecotours, Pune

EcoTourism Society of India
Flat No.98, 2nd floor, DDA Flats 2 Block, Safdarjung Enclave
New Delhi 110 029
T: +91-11-45793628
F: +91-11-74256032
Exemption u/s 80G of IT Act for all contributions / donations

ESOI News
August 2013, Volume 1, Issue 1
www.ecotourismsocietyofindia.org