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Dr. H.S. Pabla
Former PCCF, Madhya Pradesh; retd. IFS

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Conference Concept and Design



Krishna Kumar Singh
Chairman Organizing
Committee BICST2013
ESOI Founding Member &
Governing Body Member



Dr. Rohini Chaturvedi
Individual Member ESOI

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.

Inaugurated by Mr. R. Parasuram, Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh, during the two-day conference, 28 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.

Background to BICST 2013

Ecotourism in India is a fledgling sector which has immense potential for growth and providing employment to the rural population.

While there have been some encouraging progress in the ecotourism sector in India with Ministry of Tourism rolling out Sustainable Tourism Criteria of India (STCI) for accommodation providers and tour operators in April 2013, there have also been some setbacks like the Supreme Court of India banning Tiger Tourism for a brief period in 2012 before the Government of India promulgated guidelines on Tiger Conservation and Tourism in and around Tiger Reserves.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) comprehensive

guidelines on tiger conservation and tourism focus on eventually converting all tourism inside Protected Areas (PAs) into ecotourism. The guidelines mandate developing the buffer areas so as to ease tourism related pressures from the core areas.

The buffer areas need to be developed with a focus on making them analogous to core areas in terms of wildlife presence. The management challenges of these non-Protected Areas need to be addressed with and a possibility of partnerships with the private industry to step in and develop these areas. These options need to be explored.

In this context, BICST 2013 was organized with a strong focus on highlighting and promoting ecotourism's role in sustainable development.

Creating a Common Platform for all Stakeholders

The aim of BICST 2013 was to come up with a meaningful conceptualization of ecotourism that meets policy requirements, reflects existing ground realities and strikes a balance between conservation, tourism and local livelihoods. To achieve this, the conference facilitated deliberations among international experts, policy-makers from the Government of India and State governments, academics, NGOs and representatives of communities currently engaged in tourism.

The conference shall become an annual affair that focuses on the advancement of sustainability goals for the tourism industry and offers an opportunity for

stakeholders to discuss ideas and solutions that inspire change.

Wide Range of Challenges and Opportunities for Ecotourism in India

The technical sessions of the two-day conference looked at international best practices of multi-stakeholder involvement as well as the national level ecotourism framework in India and comprised the following topics:

- Ecotourism Solutions and Strategies: Reflections on Global Experiences
- Ecotourism Framework in India: Law, Policy and Politics
- Ecotourism Framework in India: Stakeholder Experiences of Challenges and Opportunities
- Ecotourism Framework in India: Exploring Potential for Stakeholder's Collaboration in Madhya Pradesh

Additional, interesting inputs were given by discussions and multi-stakeholder dialogue on exploring potential for stakeholder's collaboration in Madhya Pradesh.

Conference Proceedings to be Published

The inputs and discussions made by speakers, panelists and audience have been processed and will be published soon. For ESOI members it will also be available for download on:
www.ecotourismsocietyofindia.com.

Media Reports

ESOI hosts India's 1st international conference on Sustainable Tourism

Travel Trade Journal, May 2013

BICST : Balanced approach is a must for sustainable tourism in India

Travel Trends Today, May 2013

EVENT ROUNDUP

Holistic approach to sustainable tourism

Express Travelworld, June 2013

पर्यटन विकास
पर इंटरनेशनल
कॉन्फ्रेंस 18 से

पत्रिका, 17 April 2013

ESOI calls tourism with biodiversity conservation

Kashmir Reader 19 April 2013

Eco-tourism conference on April 18-19

Central Chronicle, 17 April 2013

ECO-TOURISM
MEET FROM
TOMORROW

Hindustan Times Bhopal, 17 April 2013

Glimpses of BICST 2013



BICST2013 Bhopal International Conference on Sustainable Tourism

“Tourism: Enabler for
Conservation, Livelihood and
Sustainable Growth”

April 18th-19th, 2013
Jehan Numa Palace Hotel,
Bhopal



Speakers, Moderators and Panelists

Amit Sankhala

Kanha Jungle Lodge

Enrico Ducrot

CEO, Viaggi dell'Effante and EcoLuxury, Italy

Dr. Erach Bharucha

Bharati Vidyappeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune

Guy Chester

Founder and Managing Director, EcoSustainAbility, Australia

G. Krishnamurty

Forest Officer, Madhya Pradesh

Hashim Tyabji

Director, Wild India Camps Pvt. Ltd., UK

Heidi Bernsdorff

Travel Journalist, Germany

Dr. H.S. Pabla

Former PCCF, Madhya Pradesh, retd. IFS

Krishna Kumar Singh

Founding and Governing Member, ESOI, Bhopal

Leslie Carlisle

Group Conservation Manager, Phinda Private Game

Lynn Woodworth

Wildlife Researcher, Australia

Manori Gunawadena

Director, Environment Foundation Ltd., Sri Lanka

Mandip Singh Soin

Honorary President ESOI

Mridula Tangirala

Director Operations, Taj Safaris Ltd.

Raghwendra K. Singh

Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism, Bhopal

Dr. Raghu Chundawat

Conservation Biologist

Rakesh Mathur

Founding and Governing Body Member, ESOI

R. Parasuram

Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh

Richard Vigne

CEO, OI Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya

Dr. Rohini Chaturvedi

Research Associate, University of Cambridge, UK

Ravi Singh

Secretary General and CEO WWF-India, Delhi

Sanjay Upadhyay

Enviro Legal Defence Firm, Noida

Santosh Dwivedi

Social Worker

Seema Bhatt

Governing Body Member, ESOI

Steve Borgia

Founding and Governing Body Member ESOI

Suhas Kumar

IFS, APCCF, Government of Madhya Pradesh

Sujit Banerjee

Secretary General World Travel & Tourism Council, Gurgaon

Swathi Seshadri

EQUATIONS, Karnataka

*For more details visit:
www.bicst2013.org*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Upcoming ESOI Publications

Handbook on Ecotourism and Environment – A Ready Reckoner for Practitioners: The book is compiled by ESOI and shall be published in its fourth edition soon. It introduces the reader to different issues in practicing sustainable tourism, it shows good practices, guidelines 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: This publication contains a variety of successful ecotourism initiatives and challenges arising in India. It is based on the inputs of 25 speakers, which were made during the 10th and 11th ESOI workshops in Guwahati and Aurangabad.

Ecotourism Society of India

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