

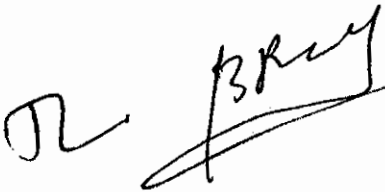

Proposed Plan of Action

1. BIMSTEC Tourism Information Centre will be established in India for producing and updating all publicity and collateral materials including Brochures and CDs. Inputs for these activities will be provided by focal points of each BIMSTEC member country. The particulars including e-mail addresses of these focal points will be shared among member countries immediately to facilitate this proposed action.
2. Member countries would explore the possibility of establishment of a BIMSTEC Tourism Fund with suggested contribution of US\$ 10,000 from each member country. This fund would be utilized for joint publicity and promotion of BIMSTEC. The details regarding management and funding of the Centre will be discussed at the next BIMSTEC Tourism Expert Group meeting, which should be convened as early as possible.
3. Round Table and Workshop of Tourism Ministers of BIMSTEC member countries may be held on an annual basis in all the member countries. In 2006, BIMSTEC Round Table could be held back to back with ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) in Yangon. The Government of Myanmar would examine possibilities of hosting the same.
4. Tour packages (for 2 or more countries) could be finalized by private stakeholders of member countries and promoted among BIMSTEC member countries within the next 2-3 months. Packages to be devised could have attractive discounted airfares, accommodation and tours within the BIMSTEC member countries.
5. The preparation of Compendium of hotel facilities and recognized tour operators available in BIMSTEC member countries may be undertaken by BIMSTEC Tourism Information Centre.
6. The member countries would explore synergies between SASEC and BIMSTEC in the tourism sector. This was agreed in principle by all member countries. However, the issue will need internal consultations by respective governments before arriving at a final decision in this regard.
7. As part of the BIMSTEC tourism promotion, once the tourism packages have been designed, the BIMSTEC member countries may explore the advertisement of the same through print and electronic media in their respective countries.

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8. Familiarization trips for journalists/tour operators (two each) and opinion makers including Parliamentarians from the BIMSTEC countries will be organized by each member country. Unless agreed otherwise, full local hospitality will be provided by the host government and the international fare at discounted rate will be provided by the sending country. India is already undertaking this FAM trip to the States of Assam and Meghalaya in the North-Eastern region of India for the member countries along with the Round Table Workshop. Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand have agreed to organize such trips subsequently.
9. Sri Lanka agreed to undertake preparation of Calendar of events of different activities under tourism from each country. The information would then be put on the websites.
10. The ADB proposed to draw up the detailed plan of action on development of tourism related infrastructure, human resource development for tourism, poverty alleviation programmes and marketing of tourism products in member countries.
11. As suggested by Nepal, it has been agreed to explore the possibility of exchanging information about the Hotel Management Institutes in BIMSTEC member countries.
12. The monitoring of this plan of action will be undertaken through established mechanisms under BIMSTEC.



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