



17 MAY 2014 DESA FORUM

PANEL DISCUSSION ON ACCESSIBLE TOURISM AND INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

Tourism is one of the world's largest and fastest growing industries. As an effective driver of economic growth, it can promote inclusive development by enhancing the well-being of host communities.



Accessibility is a central element of any responsible and sustainable tourism policy

Accessible tourism benefits us all

The UN High-level Meeting on Disability and Development, called for actions to mainstream disability in the global development agenda.

UNDESA-DSPD IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

social.un.org
www.un.org/disabilities
www.pacrim.hawaii.edu

Saturday 17 May 2014
10.30AM – 12.30PM
Hawai'i Convention Center in
Honolulu, USA



Developing and expanding tourism is increasingly seen as part of national development strategies. However, its potential is undermined by challenges posed by accessibility requirements of a growing body of customers with disabilities. To accommodate all tourists on an equal basis, the integration of accessibility standards in

business expansion and strategic plans of the tourist sector are imperative.

Accessibility is a central element of any responsible and sustainable tourism policy and an exceptional business opportunity. Accessible tourism does not only benefit persons with disabilities or special needs; it benefits us all.

This perspective on accessibility is a pivotal foundation from which to launch all efforts at understanding and addressing the lives and challenges of the more than 1 billion persons with disabilities worldwide. It encourages us to build upon the purely rights-based approach to addressing the needs of the disabled by recognizing accessibility as an investment in an inclusive and sustainable future.

The United Nations continues to take a lead role in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Much has been achieved since the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but much more can be done. At the 2013 UN High-level Meeting on Disability and Development, calls were made for enhanced actions to mainstream disability in the global development agenda. A focus on accessibility can help to take us there. We must encourage governments, public and private enterprises harnessing the limitless untapped opportunities available in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and ensuring equitable social and economic opportunities for all.

Discussion questions:

1. What role can different stakeholders- Governments, UN system, academic institutions, NGOs, the private sector can play in promoting accessibility regulations in the tourism sector and their enforcement?
2. What are specific examples of good practice? What kinds of policies are needed?
3. What are the challenges in ensuring equal access for persons with disabilities?

Programme:

<p>10.30 am – 12.30 pm</p>	<p>Panel Discussion on Accessible Tourism and Inclusive and Sustainable Development for All</p> <p>Facilitator: UN DESA and PACRIM</p> <p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Daniela Bas, Director Division for Social and Policy Development/Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Global Viewpoints: “Accessible Tourism as a tool for Inclusive and Sustainable Development” <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/DSPD/DESA- University of Hawaii, co-ordinator, Pacific Rim Conference on Disability and Diversity- Jeremy McGhee(Self-Advocate)- Representatives of tourism/hospitality industry- Representatives of Hawaiian Airlines and Japan Airlines- Representative of the private sector <p>Interaction, Summary and Closing</p>
----------------------------	---