

Training Course on “Tourism Development”

09-13 November 2020, 09:00 AM, Turkey Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Excellencies, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته**

Very Good Day to all of you

- I am pleased to welcome you all to the training course on “Tourism Development”, which we organize it within the framework of SESRIC Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB).
- Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Her Excellency Ms. Şennur Aldemir DOĞAN, Director General of Investments and Establishments at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey for accepting our invitation and nominating Dr. Elçin BARIN DURMAZ, Culture and Tourism Expert, to share the experience of Turkey on “Sustainable Tourism in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic”.
- I would like also to express my sincere thanks to H.E. Prof. Adem ŞAHİN, President of Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and H.E. Mr. İhsan ÖVÜT, Secretary General of SMIIC, for accepting our invitation and nominating prominent speakers from their Esteemed

Institutions to contribute to this training course for the benefit of participants from the State Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

- Also, I would like to thank Prof. Khairusy Syakirin Bin HASHIM, Head of Consultancy at the International Institute for Halal Research and Training of Malaysia and Dr. Md. Anowar Hossain BHUIYAN, Assistant Professor at National University Gazipur in Bangladesh for accepting our invitation to make valuable presentations on key issues related to tourism development in Uzbekistan.
- My deep thanks and appreciation are also extended to Mr. Ulugbek AZAMOV, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for requesting SESRIC to organise this training course and nominating relevant staff from his Esteemed Committee to attend and benefit from this important training course.

Excellencies, Dear Participants,

- Over the last few decades, tourism became one of the most significant driver of economic growth and an important source of foreign exchange earnings and employment in many OIC member countries. Tourism sector plays a substantial role in the socio-economic development of these countries, particularly due to their rich and

diverse natural, geographical, historical, cultural and religious heritage assets.

- Here it is also worth mentioning that Islamic Tourism (or Muslim Friendly tourism) has a great potential for sustainable growth and significant contribution to the development of the overall tourism sector in the OIC member countries.
- The increasing number of Muslim tourists around the world over the last decade and the increasing awareness of this new trend in tourism industry have stimulated many tourism industry players to start offering special tourism products and services developed and designed in accordance with the Islamic principles to cater the needs and demands of Muslim tourists.
- Therefore, due to the importance and the high potential of tourism sector in the socio-economic development of our member countries, SESRIC initiated the Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) many years ago to contribute to the efforts of our member countries towards enhancing the technical capacities of their national institutions working in the domain of tourism.
- Within the framework of this programme, SESRIC organises short-term training courses (like this one), training workshops, and study visits on a wide range of technical topics such as destination management, multi-destination tourism corridors, strategic planning

for sustainable tourism development, Muslim friendly tourism, etc. This is usually done through different modalities by matching the needs and capacities of the relevant national institutions working in the domain of tourism.

Dear Participants,

- Uzbekistan possesses a high potential for the development of different segments of tourism such as Muslim-Friendly tourism, rural tourism, eco-tourism and smart tourism. This is true considering the diversification of its tourism destinations and heritage sites, which are available at Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva that can attract more tourists from different OIC geographical regions.
- In this regard, I believe that this training course, which aims to provide insights into the ways and means of strengthening the competitiveness of the tourism sector in Uzbekistan with special emphasis on different sub-segments of the tourism sector, will make a positive impact and add value to the work and expertise of the participants.
- Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and a successful training throughout the upcoming days.

Thank you, Wassalamualeykum.