

Ministry of I. C. & T.

The World Tourism Day is celebrated in Equatorial Guinea

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The celebration of the World Tourism Day in Equatorial Guinea began with a mass in the Malabo Cathedral, which was followed by a cocktail in the Hotel Sofitel, in which the owners and representatives of tourism establishments of Malabo participated. Governmental personalities also went to the event.



Group photo of the participants of the celebration of the Tourism Day, in Malabo.

Along with other countries of the world, Equatorial Guinea commemorates World Tourism Day, whose theme is “Tourism and Biological Diversity”, which was held this year in China.

The commemoration events began in Malabo early in the morning with a thanksgiving mass at the Cathedral, attended by, among other personalities, the President’s Tourism Advisor, Prudencio Botey Sobole, the Director-

General of Public Works and Tourism Promotion, Gabino Molongua Ivina, the Secretary of State for Information and Press, Federico Abaga Ondo, and other personalities of the Ministry. Numerous managers and owners of tourism establishments of the city also attended the mass.

After the mass, the persons responsible for the tourism industry of the Ministry offered in the Hotel Sofitel of Malabo a cocktail in which the professionals of the hotel/restaurant sector participated. Before the opening of the discussion, the Director-General of Public Works and Tourism Promotion read the message from the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), Telab Rifai.

Subsequently, the Secretary of State for Information and Press, Federico Abaga, took the floor and, on behalf of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Jerónimo Osa Osa Ecoro, urged the owners and managers of the tourism establishments to form an association of the sector. Abaga Ondo also reminded them that at the Second Economic Conference held in Bata, tourism was identified as one of the sustainable resources that Equatorial Guinea has without exploitation, “reason for which we have to make tourism continue growing in the country”, he added.

At the end of the party, the managers of the tourism establishments awarded their best employees of the year. Among the fortunate we can highlight the best receptionist of the Hotel Yoli y Hermanos; the professionals of the Hotel Ilachi, for cleanliness and the cook of the Restaurante Udica, as the best restaurateur, among others.

The Secretary-General of the Ministry, Juan Mba Ovono, the Director-General of Press, Radio and Television, Teobaldo Nchaso Matomba and the Councillor of Culture, Anacleto Oló Imbuí, among other personalities attended the event.

Below, we reproduce the Message of the Secretary-General of the WTO, Taleb Rifai, which was read by the Director General of Public Works and Tourism Promotion, Gabino Molongua Ivina.

Tourism and Biodiversity
China, September 27, 2010-09-28

As the international community comes together throughout 2010 to celebrate life on Earth as part of the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity, the tourism industry is pleased to join in this global campaign by celebrating World Tourism Day (WTD) 2010 in China under the theme “Tourism and Biodiversity.”

The value of biodiversity for tourism is immeasurable. One of tourism’s greatest assets, the diversity of life on Earth causes millions of people to travel the world each year. Yet biodiversity, the intricate web of unique species and ecosystems that make up our planet, is at risk on a global scale. Demographic pressures and unsustainable human activities are causing irreversible biodiversity loss at an alarming rate.

Recognizing the value of Earth’s natural capital to its long-term sustainability, the tourism industry is called upon to protect and sustainably manage biodiversity. A healthy tourism industry depends on a healthy resource base, and sustainable growth in tourism means increased funds for conservation.

Tourism revenues resulting from the enjoyment of this biological diversity, often located in the world’s less developed regions, are a significant source of income and employment for local communities. It is this relationship between tourism and biodiversity and the resulting positive impacts on local livelihoods, development and poverty alleviation that must set the tone for sustainable tourism development.

Against this background, WTD 2010 will highlight the strong ties between tourism development, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. Sustainable tourism presents an important opportunity for safeguarding irreplaceable natural wealth and raising awareness of the importance of life’s natural diversity.

Safeguarding biodiversity is an urgent challenge that concerns us all – the international community, governments, companies and travellers – but it is not too late to act. I am confident that throughout 2010 and beyond the tourism community will come together to

demonstrate its vital role in protecting biodiversity and maximizing its contribution to poverty reduction and development.

Taleb Rifai

Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO)

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