

November 6, 2017
ASEAN-Japan Centre

AJC conducted “Workshop on Sustainable Tourism: Accessible Tourism” in Japan for ASEAN Tourism Stakeholders



[Left] Visit to Iseshima BFTC [Right] Wheelchair demonstration in Toba

The ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) conducted "Workshop on Sustainable Tourism: Accessible Tourism" on October 15-21, 2017 in Tokyo and Mie prefecture, Japan for the second time. It was organized for management-level tourism stakeholders in the government and private sectors of the ASEAN Member States to learn how the Japanese tourism industry and community handle accessibility and universality of tourism to accommodate visitors with special needs regardless of their physical limitations or age. This year's workshop was organized for Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, following the one for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Malaysia in FY2016.

The workshop aimed to share Japan's approach and efforts to enhance accessible tourism to develop more accessible tourism environment and tour programs in the respective ASEAN Member States. Through the workshop, the AJC intended to raise awareness of the importance of improving accessible environment for tourists, and contribute to the destinations' better preparedness for further receiving tourists with various needs.

During the five-day workshop, the participants received lectures on overview of accessible tourism, Japan's accessible environment, approaches to enhance accessibility and accessible tour products. They also made technical visits to barrier free tourism facilities. The workshop was well-received by the participants as many of them commented in the questionnaire survey done at the end of the program, that they gained new knowledge on accessible tourism and wish to apply the ideas which they learned during the workshop in their own countries.

In order to further share what the participants learned from the program with stakeholders in the ASEAN Member States, the AJC is planning to conduct a follow-up seminar in Manila, the Philippines in Feb. 2018 (tentative). Last year's same program for the first five ASEAN countries brought out positive influence to the countries, as there were some concrete measures to promote accessible tourism were actually taken, including creating more accessible tourism products and services, improving facilities to accommodate tourists with special needs, establishing regulations for accessible environment, among others. The AJC will continue to make efforts to enhance sustainable tourism development in the ASEAN region by building the capacity of the local tourism stakeholders by introducing Japanese leading accessible tourism cases.

▼ **Workshop on Sustainable Tourism: Accessible Tourism (for Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)**

<http://www.asean.or.jp/en/tourism-info/20171026/>

<< **ASEAN-Japan Centre** >>

The ASEAN-Japan Centre is an intergovernmental organization established by the ASEAN Member States and Japan in 1981. It has been promoting exports from ASEAN to Japan while revitalizing investment, tourism as well as people-to-people exchanges between the ASEAN Member States and Japan.

URL : <http://www.asean.or.jp/en/>

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Tourism & Exchange Division, ASEAN-Japan Centre

1F, Shin Onarimon Bldg., 6-17-19 Shimbashi,

Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0004 Japan

TEL 03-5402-8008 FAX 03-5402-8009 E-mail: info_to@asean.or.jp

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