

Regional webinar organized by the Down to Zero Alliance
RESTARTING TRAVEL AND TOURISM IN ASIA WITH CHILD PROTECTION IN FOCUS
15 July, 2.00 pm. of Bangkok time



Mario Pandu Dewono
Deputy Secretary General
AIPA Secretariat



Joyatri Ray
Director of
Equitable
Tourism Options -
EQUATIONS



Atty. Noemi B. Truya-
Abarientos
Deputy Executive
Director, Children's
Legal Bureau



Vishal Sinha
Chief Executive Officer
CWT India



Sreejith
Payyadakath
CEO
Kabani Community
Tourism Services



Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_slFoW7X_QzCSQUyEH3ODQ

Background: Among the multitude of challenges at the intersection of business and children's rights, urgent action is needed to protect children from all forms of violence, in particular in the view of the restart of tourism after lifting the lockdown measures used to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. As the world responds to the pandemic, push factors that facilitate or lead to violence in general, including the sexual exploitation of children both online and offline are intensifying, or are expected to increase. It's time now, to reflect on inclusive and sustainable development, where the travel and tourism industry has been the most affected¹. This can be achieved only if key stakeholders act together to prevent, mitigate, and remediate risks to child protection.

Objective: To have key partners representing civil society organizations from the Down to Zero Alliance, governments, and the travel & tourism sector take stock of the key challenges, including implications of the pandemic, versus progress made up to date in respect to child protection; and to commit, through a joint statement calling for the travel and tourism recovery phase, to keep child protection as a primary consideration. The **outcomes of the webinar and the joint statement** will be used to advocate with relevant stakeholders to restart the travel and tourism in a sustainable way that will keep children safe from all forms of sexual exploitation.

Key discussion questions: The discussion will be organized through two regional webinars, with one in Asia (15 July) and one in Latin America (4 August). The following key questions will guide the discussion:

¹ According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) estimates, up to 100 million jobs are at immediate risk in the travel and tourism industry due to the pandemic. Asia-Pacific is expected to be the most heavily impacted, with Latin America coming in second, read more at www.wttc.org

- What are the current key risks to children and their protection; how did the COVID-19 pandemic affect the work of CSOs and the delivery of direct services in both regions; how government services may have been affected and what has been the response of the private sector?
- How will the companies continue to engage in child protection, considering that the travel and tourism sector has been the hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis itself? What support do you need from civil society and governments and what new approaches are to be considered during the recovery phase for the industry?
- What actions are there and need to be taken by the governments to create an environment where businesses and CSOs will be able to effectively protect children's rights?

Speakers:

Mario Pandu Dewono is the Deputy Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) since April 2018. Before joining AIPA he was with the UN Refugee Agency Indonesia representation office for ten years. He is a Political Scientist by training and is interested in human rights law and humanitarian works particularly on asylum seeker and refugee rights, and child protection issues. He earns a Master's degree in Asian Studies from Lund University, Sweden with a research focus on non-traditional security and labor migration issue in ASEAN countries.

Joyatri Ray is the Director of Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS), a research, campaign, and advocacy organisation working on tourism and development issues in India. EQUATIONS collaborates closely with other organisations and peoples' movements to encourage people-centered forms of tourism & policies that ensure significant local benefits and take into account the negative impacts of an unbridled growth of tourism. Having worked for 15 years at EQUATIONS in various capacities, she has developed an understanding of the ways in which tourism shapes the lives of local communities with a particular emphasis on child protection issues in travel and tourism. She has worked extensively to incorporate child safe practices in the private sector in general and particularly in the tourism sector. She has designed and facilitated processes to engage the tourism industry - organised and unorganised tourism service providers to integrate child protection mechanisms within their business operations and facilitated formation of a network of civil society organisations on the issue of child protection in travel and tourism. She has worked extensively in India while working with child protection organisations and Government bodies across the globe.

Atty. Noemi B. Truya-Aberientos is the Deputy Executive Director of Children's Legal Bureau, she is a Filipino lawyer, child rights advocate and human rights defender with two decades' experience as a litigator and lecturer on children and human rights laws. Likewise, she had implemented various projects on child protection, including protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, online sexual exploitation and trafficking. Prior to becoming a lawyer, she had volunteered in various non-governmental organizations as writer and paralegal in assisting urban poor, worker, and peasant cases.

Vishal Sinha is the Chief Executive Officer of CWT India, appointed to the role in June 2017. He is a member of CWT's Asia Pacific Leadership Team and is based in Gurgaon, India. CWT India operates from six cities with a team of over 1,200 people delivering an exceptional customer experience to more than 240 corporate clients. Vishal is responsible for managing and growing CWT's business in the market, particularly with local companies and small and medium enterprises. A travel industry veteran, Vishal has more than 20 years' experience holding senior management portfolios at various travel corporations.

Prior to joining CWT, Vishal was Chief Operating Officer of TUI India, where he was responsible for growing the business in India. Before that, he spent seven years based in Tokyo, Japan as Regional General Manager at British Airways. During his time with British Airways, he also held several other business development and management roles based in India, the UAE, Hong Kong and China. Vishal holds a Master of Arts degree from Delhi University, as well as a Diploma in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in the UK. He is fluent in English and Hindi.

Sreejith Payyadakath is the CEO of Kabani Community Tourism and Services, an organization which works with local communities in developing sustainable tourism projects in the villages of South India. He leads Kabani's tour operations, training and research projects, it's fair trade initiatives and various community empowerment activities with focus on women and children. Sreejith was born and brought up in the culturally and politically intense landscape of Kannur in North Kerala. On completing his studies in Engineering, he chose to follow the obvious path of a professional and started working in the software domain. After a decade-long career in IT, he moved back to his native to pursue his passion, to work closely with people and on environmental issues. Thus started his journey with Kabani.

Read more about child protection in travel and tourism at:

www.protectingchildrenintourism.org