Bio Data of Moderator and Judging Panel

April 11 (Monday), 2011
16:30 to 17:30
Plenary 2: Tomorrow's Tourism

Session Moderator:

Peter Semone
Chief Technical Advisor, Agency for Luxembourg Development Cooperation Project

Peter Semone currently serves as Chief Technical Advisor of an Agency for Luxembourg Development Cooperation Project in Vientiane, Laos.

Prior to his current engagement, Peter served as Team Leader of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded Mekong Tourism Development Project (MTDP) in Vietnam.

Peter has served as Vice President of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) where he was responsible for directing PATA's regional offices in Europe, the Americas, the Pacific and China and providing strategic leadership to PATA's many regional and global initiatives. During his tenure at PATA, Peter was instrumental in responding to the Bali Bomb, SARS and Tsunami crises and in nurturing cooperation among the seven Greater Mekong Sub-region destinations.

Early in his career, Peter founded an destination management company, which managed shore logistics for major cruise ship visits to ports in Indonesia.

Peter is a frequent lecturer on topics ranging from Tourism Economics, Strategic Management and Destination Marketing at numerous Asia Pacific tourism colleges and at professional tourism conferences.
Peter holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania’s College of Arts and Sciences and Wharton School of Business as well as a master’s degree from Cornell University’s School of Hospitality Management.

Judging Panel:

Robert Broadfoot
Founder and Managing Director, Political and Economic Risk Consultancy, Ltd
(Plenary One Lead Presenter)

Robert Broadfoot is the Founder and Managing Director of Political & Economic Risk Consultancy, Ltd. (PERC). A US citizen, Bob graduated with honors in economics from Oberlin College in the United States in 1972. He moved to Hong Kong in 1975, when he founded PERC to help banks and multinationals identify and manage country risks in Asia.

Bob coordinates a network of analysts throughout the East and Southeast Asian region whose job it is to monitor those dynamics and keep clients alerted to critical developments, their causes and implications.

He is the editor of PERC’s Asian Intelligence newsletter, its annual Comparative Country Risk Report on Asia, and its monthly Country Risk Monitoring Service. He is a contributing author to a new book called China Into the Future – Making Sense of the World’s Most Dynamic Economy, which has just been published by John Wiley & Sons.
Mr Ray Hammond
Futurist and Author
(PATA 60th Anniversary & Conference Closing Speaker)

Ray Hammond is Europe’s most experienced and most widely published Futurologist. For over 25 years he has researched, written and spoken about how future trends will affect society and business. As global warming and the environmental threat continue to be priorities on the world’s agenda, Ray is one of a few commentators equipped to communicate how these massive challenges will affect our futures, the way we do business and the far reaching implications both socially, economically and politically.

Ray is a visiting lecturer at the Institute for the Future of Humanity, University of Oxford, a visiting lecturer at the London Business School and a contributing editor to the Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory at the University of Maryland, U.S.A. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (F.R.S.A.).

He is also a globally published novelist (Macmillan) whose three recent high-tech futuristic novels have won world-wide critical acclaim.
Amitabh Kant
Managing Director, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor
(Plenary Three Lead Presenter)

Amitabh Kant is presently posted as Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation. The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) is being developed by the Government of India as a global manufacturing and investment destination supported by world class infrastructure and enabling policy framework. In essence, the DMIC project is aimed at the development of futuristic, smart industrial cities in India which will converge and integrate new generation technology across sectors. The project is being developed in partnership and collaboration with Government of Japan.

Amitabh Kant is a member of the Indian Administrative Service, IAS (Kerala Cadre: 1980 Batch). He is also the author of “Branding India – An Incredible Story” and has been the key driver of the “Incredible India” and “God’s Own Country” campaigns which positioned and branded India and Kerala State as leading tourism destinations. Kant also conceptualized and executed the “Atithi Devo Bhavah” – “Guest is God” campaign to train Taxi Drivers, Guides, immigration officials and make them stake holders in the tourism development process.

Amitabh Kant was also the National Project Director of the Rural Tourism Project of UNDP which made a paradigm shift in spreading tourism to Indian villages which had core-competency in handicrafts, handloom and culture. During his tenure India Tourism focused on infrastructure development, diversification of India’s tourism products and raising the quality of its products and services.

Amitabh Kant has worked as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Secretary, Tourism, Government of Kerala, Managing Director, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation, District Collector, Kozhikode and Managing Director, Matsyafed.
Mr Richard Quest  
Anchor and Correspondent CNN  
(Plenary 3 Session Moderator)

Richard Quest is host of Quest Means Business and one of the most instantly recognisable members of the CNN team; covering an extensive range of breaking news and business stories, as well as feature programming, he has become one of the network’s highest profile presenters. Quest is firmly established as an expert on business travel issues and currently works as a CNN anchor and correspondent. His other regular programme is ‘CNN Business Traveller.’

As a business travel specialist, Quest has become a voice of authority on subjects like the launch of the Airbus A380; as a news correspondent he travelled across the US to gauge public feeling in the build up to the 2004 presidential election. He anchored CNN’s coverage of the funeral of Pope John Paul II, live from Rome. Quest attends the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, every year, and in this, as with every case, he lends an incredible wealth of modern business knowledge to the coverage, coupled with his inimitable reporting style.

Quest has also built up an almost unparalleled reputation in the broadcasting business having been reporting on the international financial markets for the last 20 years, working in both television and radio.