The Republic of Korea has the honor to invite the policy makers and experts on eco-tourism from the FEALAC member countries to the 2nd FEALAC Ecotourism Conference that will be held in Seoul during May 12-14, 2010. The conference will be held under the theme of “Low Carbon and Green Tourism” in an attempt to promote eco-tourism, which is environmentally responsible in every aspect of its operation such as the minimal use of fossil fuel-powered transportation during tours. The Conference will also aim to further the achievements of the 1st FEALAC Conference on Ecotourism, which was held in Bali, Indonesia in July 2008, and to respond to the need for greater cooperation in ecotourism among the FEALAC member countries.

Background

Ecotourism refers to all forms of tourism with the objective of better understanding natural environments and nature-based local cultures. Known for their naturally beautiful environments and diverse local cultures, both East Asia and Latin America have especially large potentials for growth in ecotourism. Nonetheless, the ecotourism between the two regions has been unable to fully reflected these potentials, due to the two regions’ great geographical distance and lack of cooperative mechanisms.

The 1st FEALAC Conference on Ecotourism was held in Indonesia in 2008, along with the 5th FEALAC Politics, Culture and Education Working Group Meeting, in order to address the need for discussions on the sustainable development of ecotourism in East Asia and Latin America.

Korea recognizes ecotourism to be an effective means to achieve better cultural understanding among the FEALAC member countries. Furthermore, it has adopted ‘Low Carbon, Green Growth’ as its new national vision under the current Administration, and therefore attributes its highest priority at present to the environmentally friendly industries. In organizing the 2nd Conference on Ecotourism, it is the sincere hope of the Korean government that the Conference will contribute to increase the flow of ecotourism between East Asia and Latin America by promoting the understanding and exchanges among the FEALAC member countries.
General Objectives

- To share policy experiences and best practices in ecotourism among the FEALAC member countries
- To search for ways to increase the ecotourism flow and cooperation among the FEALAC member countries
- To recommend future roads of action in promoting ecotourism within the framework of the FEALAC

Conference Organizers

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), ROK
- Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST), ROK
- Korea Tourism Organization, ROK

Conference and Eco-tour Details

- In the Conference, each session will consist of one moderator, three to four speakers. Speakers will be comprised of experts and officials from the FEALAC member countries.
- Speakers will make presentations, preferably with power point slides. Each session will be composed of presentations and Q & A for the audience.
- The Conference will be open to the public and free of charge to attend.
- Simultaneous interpretation for English and Spanish will be provided.
- A tour to Jeju Island, one of the biggest islands in Korea, will be arranged for May 13-14. Participants will visit three natural sites designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO as well as engage in walking tours to various natural locations on the Island in line with the spirit of environmentally-responsible ecotourism.