

2nd European Tourism Conference

Travel & Tourism: The Day After – “Turning Crisis into Growth”
30 & 31 October 2009, Thessaloniki – Greece

Confirmed Speakers



Irini Pari is the Vice – President of the European Economic & Social Committee (EESC). She has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 1998 in the Employers’ Group. She has been appointed Vice-President of the Employers’ Group from 2006 to 2008 and Vice-President of the Social Section from 2004 to 2008. She also sits as a member in the Social section and in the Economic section, as well as in the Labour Market Observatory. She has been a Permanent Delegate of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises in Brussels since 1995 and a member of the European Social Dialogue Committee. She has worked as an advisor in the European Commission at the Secretariat General and the Directorate General for Competition. (<http://eesc.europa.eu>)



Juliana Azumah – Mensah is the Minister of Tourism of Ghana. World Tourism Day will commemorate this year its 30th anniversary in the vibrant country of Ghana under the theme 'Tourism - Celebrating Diversity'. This year’s theme focuses on the world’s cultural wealth and the important role sustainable tourism plays in revitalizing local traditions and making them flourish as they cross other cultures. A huge variety of local customs co-exist all over the world, be they languages, religions, architecture, food, politics or natural environments. This diverse environment has allowed the travel and tourism industry to thrive and become the largest single export industry and a leading force in the service sector. Every region of the world is distinct and thus has something both to offer and gain through travel and tourism, particularly less developed nations. It is the responsibility of industry stakeholders to harness these opportunities whilst facing the long term challenges engendered by travel and tourism. 'Tourism - Celebrating Diversity' highlights this varied environment which is at the very centre of tourism.

Diversity has indeed been the motor behind travel and tourism for centuries. (<http://www.touringghana.com/mot.asp>)



Daniel Charbonnier is the Managing Director of Minds in Motion, SA and has over 15 years of experience in Europe and North America. Prior to founding the company, he gained considerable professional experience with several leading hospitality multi-nationals. Daniel has held various operational responsibilities in the pre-opening and managing of hotels, spa, night clubs, lounges and casinos in urban and resort locations. He has successfully advised on strategic, managerial and operational issues and has implemented profit improvement programs by re-engineering business processes for optimal efficiency. Daniel is a member of the faculty at DCT Hotel and Business Management School (Switzerland) where he teaches Strategic Management and Marketing and Communication to MBA students. He is a Consultant with the International Trade Center (ITC), a joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations (UN). Daniel, a Swiss and French national graduated with Honors from the internationally recognized L'Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland. He also has a Business and Accounting degree from L'Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Lausanne. (<http://www.mindsinmotion.ch/>)



Dr. Kelly S. Bricker completed her Ph.D. research at The Pennsylvania State University where she specialized in sustainable tourism development. She has special research interests in sustainable tourism, natural resource management, outdoor recreation, community and heritage tourism development, ecotourism, sense of place and incentive travel programs. Dr. Bricker has worked all over the world. She has been employed as a guide, tourism manager, wilderness instructor, scuba and sailing instructor, professor, and researcher. She has taught at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, West Virginia University, Sacramento State, and California Polytechnic University. She is currently Senior Scientist in recreation with Devine, Tarbell & Associates. Since April 2005, Dr. Bricker has served as Chair of the Board of Directors for "The International Ecotourism Society (TIES)". (<http://www.ecotourism.org>)



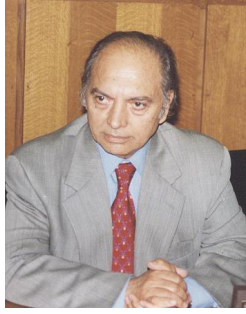
Elizabeth Y.F. Chu graduated from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature of Tung-hai University in Taiwan and holds a Masters in Economics and Sociology of the University of San Francisco, U.S.A. Mrs. Chu has a long and significant experience in Foreign Affairs serving positions such as Director General – Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A., Ambassador to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Director General—Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vice - Minister of Ministry of Affairs. She has also been awarded as “Top Public Servant in Central Administration – 1994” and has been included at the “Top-Ten most outstanding Public Servants in the nation (Taiwan) – 2004”. Since July 2008, Elizabeth Y.F. Chu is the Representative of the Taipei Representative Office in Greece.



Kristina Keller graduated from the Tourism College Angell in Freiburg, Germany, and from the California International Business University in San Diego, U.S.A., and holds a Bachelor of Science in Management. She is shareholder and member of the management of a small business chain of 9 travel agencies in the Bonn / Cologne area and keeps a close collaboration with the franchise system of TUI, the biggest German tour operator, called TUI Leisure Travel. (<http://www.tui-reisecenter.de>)



Dr. Nikolaos Georgikopoulos is a Research Fellow in Financial Economics at the Centre for Planning and Economic Research (KEPE) in Athens. The centre focuses on applied research projects concerning the Greek economy and provides technical advice on economic and social policy issues to the Minister of the Economy and Finance. He is a Senior Associate Research Fellow of Prof. Nicos Christofides at Imperial College London. He has been Visiting Scholar at New York University (NYU) - Leonard N. Stern School of Business since 2007, as he regularly visits NYU to conduct research in association with Prof. Eitan Zemel and Prof. Michael Pinedo. Nikolaos is also a member of the Society for Financial Econometrics (SoFiE), whose Founding Co-President is Prof. Robert Engle (2003 Nobel Laureate for Economics). (<http://nikolaos.net/>)



Theodore Vlassopoulos is an Economist (MA. University of Kent - dipl. Economic Development University of Manchester). He has served various significant positions such as Director-General for International Economic Relations at the Greek Ministry of National Economy, Member of EESC, Vice-President of "Export Credit Insurance Organization", President and Managing Director of the "Hellenic Foreign Trade Board", President and Managing Director of the "Productive Investments Development Company S.A.". He is a Financial Consultant at "Europress Media Group (EMG)".

Professor John Beech, Head of Sport & Tourism Applied Research at Coventry University United Kingdom– Co-Director of the Centre for International Business of Sport (CIBS) and Editor of the CIBS Working Paper series - Member Executive Board ATLAS Association for Tourism and Leisure Education - Author/ co-author of 6 books and 12 scientific papers.

Professor Robert Lanquar, PhD, Economic Journalist and Consultant, World Tourism Organization Expert – Former Head of UNWTO Tourism Enterprises Marketing and Research Department – Author of more than 300 articles and many books, including books on religious tourism – Author of the WTO Study on Religious Tourism.

Paris Loutriotis, President Greek Professional Yacht Owners Bare Boat Association (SITESAP) – Treasurer Panhellenic Federation of Tourism Enterprises (POET) – Owner/ Manager of Yacht Rental and Sales Company.

Antonis Panagiotopoulos, President Greek Academy of Taste - President Network of Certified Restaurants of Cretan Diet - Lecturer "Professional Cooking" Minoan College, Crete – Owner/ Manager of Hotel Enterprise in Crete.

Achilleas Tzimas, National Windsurfing Athlete – Trainer - Founder of Rhodes Windsurfing, Kitesurfing and Sailing Academy and Project «sportstourismgreece» - Sports Tourism Advisor to Municipality of Ialisos Rhodes - Implementation Coordinator for the Windsurfing & Kitesurfing Tourism Research Project – Co-author of 4 scientific papers and many

media and press articles on sports tourism – Organizing Coordinator of 9 Windsurfing Championship Events.

Christos Petreas, Business and Tourism Economist - Consultant - EU Expert Regional and Tourism Development – Member Religious and Pilgrimage Special Interest Group of ATLAS – Association for Tourism and Leisure Education.