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SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE FORTNIGHTLY

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Source: Hindustan Times MeRS Consumer Survey 2009 & Outlook Traveller Annual Readers' Survey 2010

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## “ATM to leverage benefits of bilateral cooperation”

ATM comes as a big opportunity for the northern belt to cash in on the rising popularity of the southern circuits in the Middle East countries and establish India as a round-the-year destination.

**VIVEK SETHI**

The Arabian Travel Market 2010 will present a great opportunity to leverage the benefits of bilateral co-operation which were extended in October 2009, when **Sultan Ahmed**, Union minister of state for tourism, along with a high profile trade delegation, had met senior authorities and spearheaded roadshows in various countries in the Middle East.



Sultan Ahmed, Union minister of state for tourism

Highlighting a few accomplishments attained in October 2009 during his visit to Middle East countries, he averred, “During our four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, we had held extensive talks with Salah K Al-Bukhyet, vice-president for Investment, Saudi Commission for tourism and antiquities on ways and means of promoting bilateral co-operation. We had also organised roadshows successful-

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## Terminal 3 at IGI Airport to start operations in July

The integrated terminal at IGI Airport, Terminal 3 (T3), is all set to be operational by the first week of July 2010. The Foundation stone for T3 was laid in February 2007 and all construction works have been completed.

**RATAN KR PAUL**

The civil structural works at all nine levels of the building have been completed. The airport systems works have also been finished and now, the trials are underway.

**To give a signature look to terminal, the building and boarding piers are covered with glass façade. The extensive usage**



IGI Airport -Terminal 3

**of glass lessens dependency on artificial light during day time.**

In addition, the shape of building utilises the

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## The ‘ash’ effect

The ashes that emerged out of volcano Eyjafjallajokull in Iceland took the zest off holidaying in Europe. TRAVTALK presents a bird’s eye-view of how tour operators in Mumbai had to bear the brunt of this unforeseen natural disaster.

Contd. on page 24 ▶

## OYE DILLI – LONDON OYE

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economy



## PATA launches TIGA to offer travel and tourism information online

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) has recently launched Phase 1 of its new Travel Intelligence Graphic Architecture (TIGA) online intelligence service, in association with Creative Advanced Technology (CAT). TIGA has been planned in three phases.

**TT BUREAU**

TIGA offers PATA members and industry subscribers a new platform for receiving analysis, forecasts



Greg Duffell (left) along with Vincent Kok from CAT

and statistics via the PATA website. The Phase 1 of TIGA was unveiled at the PATA annual meeting and tourism seminar held on April 23 –

26, 2010 in Kuching, the capital of the East Malaysian state of Sarawak.

When fully implemented, TIGA will offer an array of information relevant to travel and tourism industry professionals covering international arrivals data, forecasts, flight frequencies and airline seat availability, hotel occupancy and revenue statistics.

Users will be able to access TIGA at three levels—basic (available to anyone), advanced (available to registered users that are PATA members) and premium (available to registered users that pay a subscription).

PATA has decided to launch TIGA Phase 2 at

the PATA Travel Mart in Macau SAR in September 2010, while Phase 3 will be introduced in the first half of 2011.

According to Greg Duffell, CEO, PATA, TIGA is an interactive tool that facilitates more informed decision-making ability of travel and tourism professionals.

**"It's an integral part of our new-look website and reflects our determination to add value to our very broad range of membership benefits," he said.**

Duffell also informed that CAT, a leading provider of online tourism solutions, has extended its Standard Online Tourism Architecture

(SOTA) technology to create the TIGA platform.

### TIGA facilities

TIGA platform is for receiving analysis, forecasts and statistics via the PATA website

The Phase 1 of TIGA was unveiled at the PATA annual meeting and tourism seminar held on April 23 – 26

Phase 2 will be launched at the PATA Travel Mart in Macau SAR in September 2010

Phase 3 will be introduced in the first half of 2011

Users will be able to access TIGA at three levels—basic, advanced and premium

## IAPCO offers international perspective to MICE operators in India

The leading hoteliers, convention centres, airlines, international tourism boards and other stakeholders in travel trade gained immensely at the first meetings industry training seminar to be held in India.

**DEEPA SETHI**

The Lavasa International Conference Centre was the host to IAPCO seminar in April this year. It was a milestone event being the first



Supratik Bhattacharyya, CEO of Association Management Initiatives

'meetings industry' training seminar to be held in India. The organiser of the regional seminar, Supratik Bhattacharyya, CEO of Association Management Initiatives (AMI) India said, "I am delighted with the atten-

dance by representatives from leading PCOs, hoteliers, convention centres, airlines, international tourism boards and the press. Such a strong gathering of industry professionals substantiates the fact that this is a great step towards building intellectual capacity within the Indian industry."

The trainings were held by Philippe Fournier, president, IAPCO and Rosalyn McLeod, Council Member, IAPCO. It was a very fruitful interaction between the participants and the trainers as they also received an international perspective and could compare what their counterparts are doing in the world.

Talking about his experience at the seminar, Fournier told, "I was impressed by the many participants who were so eager to learn about meetings' and exhibitions' management from international counterparts. I see a blos-



(L-R): Philippe Fournier, Rosalyn McLeod

soming opportunity for them to guide the structure of the development of the industry here in India; it is in a dynamic state of growth right now. It was fascinating to learn first hand about the culture and traditions and how this impacts so differently on the way in which conferences are managed."

Both the evenings saw the group collect cocktails and dinner at the lake-side and there were discus-

sions galore about how to take this business travel segment forward in a methodical way.

### MICE Advantage

62 participants from six of the eight major cities in India descended on the incredible emerging valley development of Lavasa IAPCO is registered in Switzerland and represents more than 100 professional organisers

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events	Date	Venue
<b>MAY</b>		
Arabian Travel Market	4-7	Dubai, U.A.E.
Kuwait World Travel Expo	11-14	Kuwait
Bahrain International Travel Expo	13-15	Bahrain
Macau Government Tourist Office Mini Mart - Workshop	18 20	Mumbai New Delhi
Australian Tourism Exchange	May 29 -Jun 4	Adelaide, Australia
<b>JUNE</b>		
International Travel Expo Hong Kong (ITE HK)	10-13	Hong Kong China
Beijing International Tourism Expo (BITE)	25-27	Beijing, China
<b>JULY</b>		
India International Travel Mart (IITM)	10-12	Bengaluru, India
India International Travel Mart (IITM)	16-18	Chennai, India
TTF & OTM	July 31 -Aug 2	Kolkata, India
TTF & OTM	23-25	Hyderabad, India
Macau Government Tourist Office MICE Workshop (Delhi and Mumbai)	July end /August	New Delhi, Mumbai

### TALK of the town

## Guiding guides' issues

The Guides issue never ceases to be out of news. This time, it is a question of marks, or rather lack of it, in the qualifying examinations.

Some of the candidates who failed to make it have sought to make out a case that the percentage for qualifying be reduced, as the margin of failure is only a few percentage points, in many cases less than one per cent.

But when this was being considered, the applicants with much less marks also sought relaxation. The question being posed is-- where does one stop.

Meanwhile, the DOT officials, at least some of them, are busy with trying to fight it out, even as the candidates camp is doing much the same.

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## Quick Read

**In the last couple of years, India has witnessed the emergence of niche tourism segments, such as rural tourism, monsoon tourism, etc. These segments will not only help in increasing the number of FTAs in the peak season (October to March) but also during the lean summer season**

Courtesy: FICCI-Evalueserve study on Inbound Tourism