



Major Events

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2-day Tourism Summit with Sec. Lim on Thursday

May 18, 2011

Intent on continually harnessing [Bohol's](#) eco-cultural tourism promise as a reliable engine for the Boholanos' [well being](#), a neat convergence of sectors here led by the [Provincial Government](#) of Bohol convene the first Tourism Summit in Bohol on June 9 & 10, 2011 at the Bohol Tropics [Resort Club](#).

Trapped in poverty, which has slowly contaminated into the psyche of its people, Bohol has opted to invest in an industry that would deliver better and broader value services to finally uplift the [economic conditions](#) of its poverty- mired people.

Banking on its rich well [springs of](#) ecology, history, culture and natural heritage sites, the decision to make Bohol a prime eco-cultural tourism destination was a fruit of consistent participatory and consultative democratic processes; deemed as the only way to engage the widest sectoral participation and ensure the development of appropriate policy planning and management, [states](#) then Governor Rene Relampagos in his presentation "Eco-tourism in Bohol".

On the other hand, with a characteristic Boholano affinity to environment, then vice governor now Governor Edgar Chatto legislated the Bohol Environment Code and other pro-active laws responsive to the needs.

The biggest poser was how to manage eco-tourism's sustainable development, admit former leaders who decided to hand over the control of the local tourism council to the private sector which makes it even more competitive.

The private sector, especially those in the business have an intense business sense, one that would be ideally the heart-throb of an industry that taps international tourists, stress Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry [officials](#).

Now fully basking in the successes of an industry that has catapulted Bohol from the country's 20 poorest provinces to number 52 on the country's a little more over 70 provinces, industry workers also notice the price of success: a wide range of issues that need to be acted upon to ensure Bohol's position as a prime global eco-tourism destination.

The Tourism Summit was set in motion last April 13, 2011 with a total of eight sectoral consultations for our tourism industry stakeholders, stated Governor Chatto in his [letter of invitation](#) for the summit.

The sectoral consultations were intended to bring out issues and concerns from major industry sectors, Bohol Tourism Officer Josephine Cabarrus said.

Issues like illegal operation by small time investors, cut-throat competition bringing down standards, tourism activities and their impacts to the environment and a whole spectrum of inter-related problems that need immediate policies to address surfaced during the break-out forum.

These sectors and the issues will be interfacing during the break-out sessions on the first day of the summit, June 9, 2011, Chatto added.

Aside from these, a new tourism vision for Bohol would be presented and validated during the Congress.

Tourism Council Chaorman Atty Lucas Nunag said a workshop among key sector representatives formulated the new vision as a development [theme for](#) the next decade of tourism in Bohol.

"I am generally happy with the new vision which is simple, all encompassing and carries with it the aspiration of the industry," Nunag said.

The new vision would be presented as a highlight of the Congress, according to Cabarrus.

On the following day, a Sofa Talk entitled "Kulukabildo Bahin sa Turismo: Responses and Commitments" will discuss together with guest of honors from national agencies and offices topics derived from the various tourism sector's

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issues and concerns, Chatto [continued](#).

The first Bohol Tourism Congress is presented by Capitol through the Bohol [Tourism Office](#) in collaboration with Provincial Tourism Council (PTC), German Development Service (GIZ), the Department of Trade and Industry - Bohol (DTI-BOHOL) and co-sponsorship by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA). (Rey Anthony Chiu)

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