I Gede Ardika applies a world view to tourism development

Indonesian Minister of Culture and Tourism

Earlier this year, Topfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, took the fourth and final PrepCom meeting for the Bali International Convention Center provided an ideal venue for complex negotiations as well as relaxed networking. Our only regret is that more participants weren't able to enjoy more of our wonderful country.

It is thus with great pleasure that I welcome this contribution from IslandLife magazine. For those of you who joined us last May and June, I hope that Sustainable Tourism—New Horizons Linking Indonesia & the World serves as a pleasant reminder of your visit. For those of you who weren’t among us, may it serve as an invitation.

Inspired

Indeed we were inspired by many of the proceedings at PrepCom IV. And we were encouraged to see that the heart of discussions regarding sustainable development echoed some of Indonesia’s core traditional beliefs. I’ve dubbed this philosophy “The Balance of Life” and, as I explain further in an interview here, it guides our current priorities for tourism development in Indonesia.

I know at least one PrepCom IV delegate had the fortune of experiencing "The Balance of Life" first hand. Klaus Topfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, took time after the formal proceedings to visit Pemuteran on the shores of northwest Bali. Here the community works together with scientists from the Global Coral Reef Alliance and with local hotels and religious leaders to rebuild bombed reefs using innovative techniques. I have personally adopted these reefs as a best practice ecotourism model in appreciation of the community’s dedication.

Opportunities endless

Using the concepts of sustainability—by considering people and the environment as factors that go hand-in-hand with prosperity—the development opportunities for Indonesia are nearly endless. This publication highlights a few possibilities in the tourism sector. Use these for a taste, but come back for the full course!

Sincerely,

I Gede Ardika