Global Eco Asia–Pacific Tourism Conference
Noosa 18–20 November 2013

Gail Parsonage
President
International Institute for Peace through Tourism Aust. Inc.
Indigenous Tourism

WISDOM

KNOWLEDGE

VALUES
IIPT has from the beginning (25 years ago) been very active in recognizing and encouraging the vital role that Indigenous people play in Tourism and by extension Peace through Tourism.
Tourism is seen as a way of addressing the many economic, social and cultural challenges facing Indigenous peoples.
"The participation of Indigenous people in tourism is also driven by the belief that cross-cultural interactions promotes understanding between indigenous and non-indigenous people. Increased understanding results in changed attitudes and behavior that lead in turn to a more just and equitable relationship."
Participants at the Indigenous Tourism Forum developed recommendations for IIPT to take forward to appropriate organizations and agencies (e.g., United Nations, World Tourism Organization, World Travel and Tourism Council, Pacific Asia Travel Association, American Society of Travel Agents).
Was the first ever Indigenous Tourism Leaders Forum held in Africa

The Forum reached consensus on the need to create a unified symbol and message (a brand) to represent the chiefdoms and cultures of Zambia to the global tourism markets;
Is there an opportunity for Australian Indigenous Groups to form a united “Brand” to market their Wisdom/Knowledge/Values

Culture & Art = Tourism Products

?
**THE CHALLENGES**

No electricity  (means no communication, no refrigeration, lighting, or music)

No drinkable water  (this introduces health & duty of care issues)

No communication  (naturally without power; hence cannot respond to, or take a forward bookings)

No reliable transport  (airport transfers & tours are sourced out & much more expensive)
No start up capital, and naturally no working capital (no real assets, hence no loans provided by mainstream lenders)

No understanding of business skills (especially essentials such as: administrative, accounting, marketing)

No potential to produce sufficient profit to pay commissions to agents (hence no market visibility,...stuck in oblivion)

No sufficient language skills (oral or written) to operate a business”

(REF: John Nicholls)
These issues have to be identified, learned, and addressed by indigenous operators.

This process cannot happen without

- private sector offering training (the skill component)
- the public sector supporting (the finance component)

(ref: John Nicholls)
Tourism must provide economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for host communities while having minimal impacts on these sustainability factors.

Poverty alleviation must be a primary goal of Indigenous tourism development.

Tourism development must be community approved and controlled.
Tourism must be co-managed by government and host communities.

There must be true and demonstrated respect and recognition of Indigenous cultures by the tourism industry.

Development of Indigenous tourism must be participatory, with appropriate roles played by government, NGOs and community based organizations, host communities and the tourism industry.

Tourism needs to be complementary to the local and Indigenous economy.
IIPT RECOMMENDATIONS

We have a 10 point plan on how Indigenous tourism can be forwarded on both the international and local level in a manner that is culturally respectful and truthful to the Indigenous people and sustainable.

www.iipt.org/3rdglobalsummit/presentations/indigenous_tourism_forum.htm

Hard and soft copies are available Please see me or organisers at Registration desk.
The unique relationship between an Indigenous group and their territory and their intimate knowledge of their land and resources, serve as the basis for environmentally sustainable and culturally appropriate tourism development.
To foster and facilitate tourism initiatives which contribute to

- International understanding & cooperation
- Improved quality of environment
- Preservation of heritage & culture
- Poverty reduction

And through these initiatives help to bring about a peaceful and sustainable world
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR TIME