

The New Asian-African Strategic Partnership

Three significant regional developments in April 2005 are set to have a phenomenal long-term impact on intra- and inter-regional visitor flows in Asia Pacific and give further impetus to the PATA-created concept of Total Tourism:

1. Chinese Prime Minister Mr Wen Jiabao's visit to India, April 9-12;
2. Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf's visit to India, April 16-18;
3. The Asian-African Summit in Indonesia, April 22-24.

Promotion of transportation and travel linkages featured prominently in the outcomes of all three events, which cover countries and territories encompassing more than two thirds of the global population. Advancing the social and economic status of these populations is simply impossible without promoting people-to-people contact through heightened cooperation on these issues, including tourism.

Media coverage of these events was divided. The Asian-African summit was virtually ignored by the mainstream media, especially the TV networks, because of the lack of controversy associated with it, and no groundbreaking announcements emerged. The India-China (PRC)-Pakistan visits were widely covered, but focused largely on immediate political issues such as border disputes.

However, the travel and tourism industry needs to take a close look at the issues and agreements that did emerge from these meetings because they comprise the foundations upon which major structures will be built in future. This edition of *Issues & Trends* will explore the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, while the upcoming June 2005 issue will look at the impact of improving relations between China (PRC)-India and India-Pakistan.

BACKGROUND

Fifty years ago, on April 24, 1955, 29 leaders from the then free countries in Asia and Africa convened in the Indonesian hill town of Bandung. Among them were historic figures such as Soekarno, Pandit Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Zhou En Lai, Gamal Abdel Nasser, King Norodom Sihanouk, Sir John Kottelawala, and others – great personalities who have shaped present-day Asia and Africa.

They came jointly to shed the yoke of centuries of colonialism in the two continents, to avert a looming nuclear war that was threatening to be played out in Asia, and to become a balancing force in the Cold War between Western democracies and Communism. That historic meeting gave birth to the Bandung Declaration.

Only six African countries attended, of which Ghana – known then as the Gold Coast – and Sudan were not independent states. The African National Congress (ANC) represented South Africa, which could not participate as a sovereign state because of apartheid.

At the meeting, former Indonesian President Soekarno stated: "I beg of you, do not think of colonialism only in the classic form which we of Indonesia and our brothers in different parts of Asia and Africa knew. Colonialism has its modern dress in the form of economic control, intellectual control, actual physical control by a small but alien community within a nation."

Oliver Tambo, then President of the ANC, described the Conference as "a step in the direction of meeting the aspirations of the vast majority of mankind, particularly the oppressed peoples of Asia and Africa." He stated that the various delegates were themselves for centuries "the subjects of exploitation and foreign domination by Western colonial powers, and have now decided to take the destiny of their people and their countries unto themselves."

THE NEW AGENDA

Fifty years later, on April 24, 2005, 89 heads of state, heads of governments, and representatives from 106 independent nations in Asia and Africa again came to Bandung to pay tribute to their predecessors. This recent meeting was only the second time that the Asian-African Conference had convened in half a century.

The summit was designed to "reinvigorate the Spirit of Bandung" and "chart the future cooperation between our two continents towards a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP)." The summit referred to the Bandung Conference as "a beacon in guiding the future progress of Asia and Africa."

Today, a whole new agenda has emerged, aptly summarised by South African Foreign Minister Dlamini Zuma: "Given the enormous potential and the abundance of resources on both our continents, and the fact that Asia and Africa make up 72% of the world's population, we should and must play a defining role in the re-shaping of the international world political and economic order. We must ensure that globalisation works to our advantage. For the countries of Asia and Africa to succeed in their quest to overcome the imbalance between developed and developing countries, we have to act in solidarity in all areas using our combined strength to make our voices heard."

The main summit declaration called for the leaders to "recognise that the current global situation and the prevailing conditions in Asia and Africa necessitate the need to actively pursue a common view and collective action to ensure the equitable sharing of the benefits of globalisation. We are determined to meet the internationally agreed targets and goals aimed at poverty eradication, development and growth, and underline the necessity for all parties to honour their commitments in this regard."

Issues of common concern were identified as poverty and underdevelopment, gender discrimination, communicable diseases, environmental degradation, natural disasters, drought and desertification, the digital divide, inequitable market access, and foreign debt.

The New Asian-African Strategic Partnership signed at the summit will act as a framework to build a bridge between Asia and Africa covering three broad areas of partnership: political solidarity, economic cooperation, and socio-cultural relations. It will strive to promote practical cooperation between the two continents in areas such as trade, industry, investment, finance, tourism, information and communication technology, energy, health, transportation, agriculture, water resources and fisheries.

PLAN OF ACTION

This is an edited version of the Plan of Action agreed upon by the summit. When governments and stakeholders begin to address these points, increased travel flows between the two continents are likely to follow.

A. Political Solidarity

1. Promoting conditions for greater political cooperation and confidence-building conducive to the attainment of peace and stability in both regions;
2. Striving to prevent conflict and resolve disputes by peaceful means through enhanced dialogue, preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction;
3. Encouraging regional, sub-regional and national mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and supporting efforts in peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building;
4. Supporting the peaceful resolution of the Palestine issue and forming a lasting peace in the Middle East, calling on the Quartet (the EU, US, Russia and the UN) and the international community to ensure the implementation of the "road map" to peace.

B. Economic Cooperation

1. Supporting efforts to create an international economic environment that is conducive for Asian and African countries to acquire the requisite capacities to successfully compete and fully benefit from globalisation;
2. Resolving the issue of poverty in a collective and comprehensive fashion through mobilising resources for sustained economic growth, resolving debt issues, developing internationally-agreed innovative financial mechanisms, capital market cooperation, ensuring flows of international development assistance, improving market access and addressing unfair and trade-distorting subsidies, addressing weak and unstable commodity prices, and enhancing investment flows;
3. Promoting and facilitating direct trade and investment between Asia and Africa;
4. Maximising the benefits of trade liberalisation through improved market access for products of export interest to Asian and African countries, including striving to provide

Table 1: Top 25 Sub-Saharan African Countries by Total Visitor Arrivals in 2002

Rank	Country	Total Visitor Arrivals	
1	South Africa	6,550,000	*
2	Nigeria	2,045,000	*
3	Zimbabwe	2,041,000	*
4	Swaziland	1,371,000	*
5	Botswana	1,360,000	*
6	Mozambique	1,166,000	*
7	Kenya	1,001,000	*
8	Benin	853,000	*
9	Mauritius	709,000	*
10	Tanzania	575,000	*
11	Zambia	565,000	**
12	Ghana	483,000	**
13	Senegal	427,000	**
14	Malawi	285,000	**
15	Gabon	269,000	*
16	Uganda	254,000	**
17	Ethiopia	156,000	**
18	Burkina Faso	149,000	**
19	Seychelles	135,000	*
20	Cape Verde	126,000	**
21	Lesotho	124,000	*
22	Chad	121,000	*
23	Eritrea	101,000	*
24	Mali	96,000	**
25	Angola	91,000	**

Notes: * Visitors, ** Overnight Visitors

Table 2: Top 25 Sub-Saharan African Countries by Visitor Arrivals from the Asia Pacific Region in 2002

Rank	SSA Country	Total Visitor Arrivals	Arrivals from Asia Pacific	% From Asia Pacific
1	South Africa	6,550,000	273,000	4.2
2	Nigeria	2,045,000	163,000	8.0
3	Kenya	1,001,000	68,000	6.8
4	Tanzania	575,000	58,000	10.1
5	Mauritius	709,000	48,000	6.8
6	Zambia	565,000	37,000	6.5
7	Ghana	483,000	23,000	4.8
8	Botswana	1,360,000	13,000	1.0
9	Ethiopia	156,000	12,000	7.7
10	Uganda	254,000	10,000	3.9
11	Angola	91,000	6,000	6.6
12	Mozambique	1,166,000	6,000	0.5
13	Seychelles	135,000	5,000	3.7
14	Swaziland	1,371,000	5,000	0.4
15	Lesotho	124,000	4,000	3.2
16	Burkina Faso	149,000	3,000	2.0
17	Guinea	43,000	3,000	7.0
18	Eritrea	101,000	2,000	2.0
19	Niger	58,000	2,000	3.4
20	Senegal	427,000	2,000	0.5
21	Sierra Leone	28,000	2,000	7.1
22	Chad	121,000	1,000	0.8
23	Madagascar	62,000	1,000	1.6
24	Mali	96,000	1,000	1.0
25	Togo	58,000	1,000	1.7

Travel flows between

meeting of foreign ministers every two years, and sectoral, ministerial and other technical meetings when deemed necessary. A business summit in conjunction with the summit of heads of state/government will be held every four years.

It was also agreed to use a number of existing initiatives that link the two continents, including the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), China-Africa Cooperation Forum (CACF), India-Africa Cooperation, Indonesia-Brunei Darussalam-sponsored Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, Vietnam-Africa Business Forum, the Smart Partnership Initiative and the Langkawi International Dialogue.

The leaders acknowledged the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the African Union's programme for poverty eradication, socio-economic development and growth and accepted it as their framework for engagement with Africa.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Preceding the summit, a ministerial working group met in March 2004 and commissioned a number of trade and investment cooperation studies. These included the following:

- Ghana led a study on commodities and their role in trade and subsequent development patterns;
- Morocco provided a study on African-Asian cooperation in trade and investment;
- The World Bank presented research on Africa-Asia trade and investment relations;
- Mozambique, China (PRC), Japan and India provided information regarding existing initiatives, such as EU-Africa relations, the Sino-Africa process, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and India-Africa cooperation, respectively;
- The ASEAN Secretariat provided a study on the Asian development experience as a way of sharing experiences/information to assist African countries in their efforts to fast-track the process of economic growth.

Based on these, further studies were conducted:

- Improving product quality and competitiveness to ensure that producers have greater influence on the process of commodity pricing (World Bank and Ghana);
- Facilitating direct trade between Africa and Asia, specifically, direct commerce from producer to consumer (ASEAN Secretariat);

- Facilitating increased tourism between Africa and Asia (Tanzania and Zambia);
- Implementing regulatory frameworks that would be attractive to investors (China (PRC));
- Indonesia also commissioned the South Centre and UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to produce two further studies relating to strengthening economic cooperation between Asia and Africa.

These studies, including the one concerning tourism, were not available at the time of writing; however, PATA's Strategic Intelligence Centre is attempting to obtain copies of the studies. If successful, these will be outlined in future issues of *PATA Compass* magazine or *Issues & Trends*.

COMMENTS ON THE SUMMIT

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhyono

"We should be non-exclusive and be willing to cooperate with all stakeholders. In particular, Asia-Africa must be at the forefront of the global cooperation to reach the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

"The Strategic Partnership should also serve as an instrument for the promotion of a just, democratic, accountable and harmonious society, thus strengthening the process of nation-building and state-building as well as that of social integration. Moreover, human rights and fundamental freedoms of people must be promoted and protected. Not the least of these is the most basic of human rights – the right to live. No Asian or African should die because he or she is too poor to live.

"And in the various multilateral forums where our interests are at stake, we should coordinate our moves and speak with one strong and clear voice. Acting as one community, we can make sure that even the smallest among us will not be marginalised."

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura

"At this meeting fifty years ago, Japan announced its determination to progress as a nation of peace. Today, as I restate Japan's solid determination in this regard, I would like to describe Japan's policy of cooperation with the nations of Asia and Africa through development assistance and active engagement in regional cooperation.

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voluntary non-reciprocal market access for Asian-African Least Developed Countries (LDCs);

5. Building effective and targeted technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to allow Asian and African countries to integrate into the world economy and enhance competitiveness;
6. Striving for sustainable development, food security, and rural development through enhanced cooperation in the areas of agriculture, water resources, fishery, and forestry;
7. Maximising the benefits arising from the protection of intellectual property rights, such as advancing the protection of genetic resources, preserving traditional knowledge and folklore, as well as benefiting from the flexibilities provided by trade-related intellectual property rights agreements;
8. Strengthening cooperation among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Asian and African Countries by means of education and skill enhancement as well as sharing best practices and experiences;
9. Strengthening cooperation in narrowing the digital divide, creating digital opportunities, and supporting initiatives such as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) aimed at harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development;
10. Fostering research and development and the sharing of relevant technologies, including nanotechnology, biotechnology, and vaccine research;
11. Promoting the development of sustainable energy resources and technologies, including geothermal, biogas, solar, hydro-power, and nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;
12. Undertaking joint exploration of the Indian Ocean, including marine resources, marine scientific research, safety of navigation and communication at sea, and search and rescue operations in order to further bridge the divide between the two regions;
13. Encouraging the establishment of an Asia-Africa Business Forum to enable greater contact among the private sector, contributing to increased flows of trade and investment among Asian and African countries.

C. Socio-Cultural Relations

1. Fostering greater people-to-people contact so as to enrich

civil society and good governance as well as to ensure that cooperative development reaches all levels of society in countries in Asia and Africa;

2. Enhancing dialogue among cultures, including interfaith dialogues, in order to promote peace and development through mutual understanding and tolerance among differing societies;
3. Promoting mutual understanding of diverse cultures and societies through such events as cultural exchanges, preserving and restoring the cultural heritage of our peoples, and the establishment of a Cultural Dialogue Forum;
4. Advancing youth, gender equality, education, science and technology, with a view towards enhancing the capacity of human resources, overcoming illiteracy, and improving the quality of life;
5. Enhancing the role of the media in promoting the sharing of information and greater knowledge of the ways of life in Asian and African countries;
6. Developing a network among universities, libraries, research institutions and centres of excellence in Asia and Africa, including linkages with existing regional, inter-regional and international agencies, in order to share and expand the pool of resources, skills and knowledge as well as developing mechanisms for scholarships and exchanges;
7. Building cooperation to improve environmental protection, including responsible use of non-renewable natural resources and transfer of environmentally sound technology.

MECHANISMS FOR ACTION

In order to avoid duplication of resources, political disputes, and internal wrangling, it was decided that creating new bureaucracies and secretariats should be avoided; rather, it was agreed that the NAASP shall be conducted through three tiers of interaction:

1. an intergovernmental forum;
2. sub-regional organisations;
3. people-to-people interaction, particularly in business, academia, and civil society.

To follow up on the Plan, it was agreed that a summit of heads of state/government shall be held every four years, a ministerial

"Japan makes good on its promises. Japan attaches great importance to human security, promoting self-initiative and self-help efforts of developing countries. In this past decade, the total value of Japan's development assistance has been approximately 20% of the total assistance of the world. Towards Asia and Africa, Japan has provided some US\$130 billion of support. We have contributed to capacity-building abroad, having dispatched over 25,000 overseas cooperation volunteers over the past 50 years.

"Within the African region, we will likewise enhance our cooperation and dialogue with the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Particularly, Japan is ready to support the consolidation of peace in Sudan through personnel and in-kind contribution to the UN Mission, in addition to US\$100 million financial support.

"In order to advance the Middle East peace process, Japan is prepared to play an active role. The constructive role of the nations of Asia and Africa would be important. 'Central Asia plus Japan' dialogue also should be strengthened. Furthermore, Japan intends to further its cooperation with regional financing organisations such as the Asian Development Bank."

South African Foreign Minister Dlamini Zuma

"As Asians and Africans we have had a long tradition of working and living together. We recognise in each other a common humanity and common destiny, as we have suffered the same afflictions and humiliations imposed by colonialism and face similar challenges in terms of an unequal international world order, poverty, and underdevelopment. As countries of the South, we have to continue championing the cause of ensuring a more balanced and equitable global order where the development and advancement of the peoples of both our continents are prioritised.

"The NAASP centres on Asian and African ownership based on a common vision, an equal partnership, mutual respect and benefit. We have agreed that our cooperation should be practical and based on comparative advantage and mutual strength.

"The visionary founders were able to free us from colonialism in its classical sense; therefore, it is the responsibility of this generation to free Asia and Africa from poverty and underdevelopment, and if we fail, history will judge us rather harshly.

"We must also be able to mobilise resources among ourselves and not rely on donor country aid. If our destinies are in our hands, our resources cannot be in the hands of others; we must find the resources to advance progress and develop ourselves."

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

"Asia and Africa should direct their efforts towards the democratisation of global institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. We may well find that the solutions to [our basic] problems are available amongst ourselves."

CONCLUSION

Now comes the difficult part. It is all very well to have statements, principles, communiqués and declarations. It something quite different to be able to muster the resources to convert speeches and policies into practice.

The Provincial Government of West Java has already taken a step forward by providing a venue in Bandung for the establishment of an Asian-African Village in celebration of the mutual bond of friendship.

From a tourism perspective, there is no shortage of potential for the PATA countries to play a part in helping to realise the NAASP vision. Current visitor flows between Asia and Africa are miniscule. There is a bare minimum of flights linking the continents. Diplomatic representation is inadequate and obtaining visas can be difficult.

PATA sees this not as a problem but as a wide-open opportunity for growth and improvement. The Asia Pacific region now has a call for action to turn these declarations into practice.



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