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MESSAGE

I am pleased to know that OTM, Mumbai being organised from 23rd to 25th January, 2019 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre has emerged as the largest travel trade show in Pacific Asia, in terms of number of participants.

I had the pleasure of participating in OTM 2018 earlier this year and was very impressed with the wide national and international participation of over 1000 exhibitors from over 50 countries, as well as from all the corners of India from 25 States.

Besides quality business appointments between the buyers and sellers of tourism products, OTM also had a number of parallel sessions on film tourism, destination weddings, travel technology and interaction with travel bloggers which added value, networking opportunities and knowledge to the participants.

I am also happy to know about the regional travel trade shows TTF – the oldest and the largest network of travel marts covering 9 major cities in India, viz. Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Surat, Pune, Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai.

I am told that TTF, Kolkata (6 – 8 July, 2018) is the oldest travel mart in India, with a large participation from all over India, catering mainly to the huge 'Puja vacations' market. The organisers are planning to invite a large number of buyers from Bangladesh in the 2018 edition of TTF, Kolkata. This will help the sellers from all over India to connect to buyers from Bangladesh which emerged as the top source market of inbound tourists to India.

TTF, Hyderabad (13 – 14 July, 2018) is planned as the travel trade show of South India, where the organisers plan to invite buyers from Sri Lanka (the 6th largest source market of inbound tourists to India).

At BLTM Delhi (18 – 19 January, 2019) focussed on Business, Luxury and MICE travel, hundreds of buyers from all over the world and from within India are being hosted, who will also attend the grand finale OTM Mumbai (23 – 25 January, 2019).

I am happy to note that at OTM Mumbai the agenda of promoting tourism through films will be also taken to the next level, by way of organising a parallel event Cine Locales, where a compendium of film destinations, infrastructure and support available for film production within India and abroad is also planned to be released.

It is specially heartening to note that the organisers of these shows pioneered these shows three decades ago and are organising these on a sustainable basis, without any subsidy.

I commend participation in these shows and assure the organisers of all possible support of the Ministry of Tourism, as per the policy of my Government.

(K. J. Alphons)
May, 2018

Incredible India

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