

12th December 2020,

To,

All Members

Subject: Update on IATO Activities
(Monday, 30th November to Sunday, 6th December 2020)

Dear All

Please find appended the Update on IATO Activities (Monday, 30th November to Sunday, 6th December 2020)

Rahul Chakravarty
COO

Update on IATO Activities (Monday, 30th November to Sunday, 6th December 2020)

Dear Members

Greetings

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Monday, 30th November to Sunday, 6th December 2020)

Segments covered are

- 1. Communication / Letters that addressed key issues**
- 2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings/Chapter news**

Request your feedback to further the content of our weekly report.

1. Communication / Letters that addressed key issues

Segment 1 update sequence by date: 2 December

Wednesday , 2nd December

A meeting of the Board of Trade was called by DGFT on 2nd December 2020 which was chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce, Govt. of India wherein the associations Presidents/Heads were invited to give their inputs/suggestions on the forthcoming Foreign Trade Policy 2021-26. This was a marathon meeting of about 5 hours. IATO gave its inputs in advance through SEPC requesting the following:-

1. **Service Export from India Scheme for the Tour Operators**
 - To continue SEIS for the tour operators
 - Pending SEIS for Financial Year 2019-20 to be announced
 - Increase of SEIS percentage in Foreign Trade Policy – 2021-26 to 15% during off season and 10% during season
2. **Under EPCG Scheme requirement of incremental Foreign Exchange Earnings to be removed for import of Vehicles.**
3. **Value based tourist inflow incentives for MICE Tourism to be provided**
4. **Tax Refund for Tourists (TRT) Scheme on shopping**

Since agenda of the meeting could not be completed, associations who did not get a chance to speak or make presentation, were asked to submit their inputs/suggestions in advance to discuss the same in another meeting to be called on 7th December 2020. Accordingly, IATO submitted its inputs/suggestions to Additional Director General Foreign Trade. IATO also submitted its suggestions to President FIEO and DDG, SEPC requesting them to support IATO in raising these issues with the Ministry of Commerce/DGFT.

➤ **Pending important issues of the industry – need your kind and urgent attention**

IATO requested Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma, Director General (Tourism) to kindly apprise it with the latest position on its recommendations on

1. Revision in MDA Guidelines – Draft of the MDA was received from the Ministry on 26th June 2020 and IATO gave inputs on 1st July 2020
2. Revision in Guidelines for Grant of Recognition by MoT – Draft was received from the Ministry on 11th August 2020 and IATO has given its inputs on 18th August 2020

Besides the above, two other two issues related to Ministry of Commerce/Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs for which IATO also wrote to the Ministry of Tourism for their help

- I) Increase in SEIS Scrips from 7% to 10% and to be announced urgently for 2019-20 – In this regard the last letter of IATO dated 16th September addressed to Secretary (Tourism) has also been attached
- II) Restoration of E-Visa and Tourist Visa for survival of tour operators and the tourism industry: - The last letter of IATO dated 20th November 2020 addressed to Secretary (Tourism) has also been annexed.

A Copy of the letter was marked to **A.** Additional Director General (Tourism), **B.** Joint Secretary Tourism and **C.** Joint Director General (Tourism) - Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date:3,5 December

Thursday, 3rd December

- **SITE India chapter organised a Special talk on mental health Titled “Emotional Intelligence - The science of self-management” on Thursday, the 3rd December 2020 at 3 pm**

This unique Session focussed on holistic and scientific approaches towards Emotional Intelligence and provided time-tested techniques of self-management. This Session especially benefitted those whose work involve managing self, supervising others, making decisions or imparting knowledge.

Saturday, 5th December

- **Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series: Episode 66 Agra: Taj & Beyond was organised on the 5th of December 2020**

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- **ITM Task Force Meeting**

The meeting was held at 4pm. President IATO will head the Foreign Buyer Selection Committee. He opined that

- January 15-16 are good dates as by that time the Vaccine will be there and the world will know that India is ready to welcome tourists.
- The State Governments to be invite at the earliest for the virtual meetings.
- We should invite Domestic Buyers
- Two days are enough for the meetings at ITM
