

View exchange meeting at SCCI to develop sustainable tourism

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : On August 29, Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries arranged a view exchange meeting where the chamber officials, tour operators of Sylhet and Pacific Asia Travel Association Bangladesh Chapter representatives participated. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the role of tour operators and tour guides of Sylhet in developing sustainable tourism.

President of SCCI Abu Taher Md Shoeb attended as the Chief Guest while Director of SCCI and Convenor of Tourism Sub Committee Khandakar Israr Ahmed Rocky presided over the meeting.

On the occasion, Taufique Rahman, Secretary General of PATA Bangladesh Chapter, said, Sylhet every year receives 20-25 lac tourists. However, these tourists face many troubles such as lack of directions to tourist sites, insufficient transport, safety risk at tourist sites, sanitation issues, and infrastructure limitations, among others.

Hence to solve these issues, Rahman of PATA BD Chapter called for concerted efforts from all. PATA BD Chapter is working towards identifying these issues and solving them. Gradually they will be visiting different remote tourist sites of Sylhet including Tanguar Haor, to identify the problems tourists usually face. Later, to eradicate these troubles for tourists, public-private initiatives will be taken.

PATA BD Chapter requested SCCI to help in this regard.

The Chief Guest Abu Taher said SCCI is working tirelessly to develop Sylhet's tourism. Even the runway expansion of Sylhet Airport was a result of constant pursuit of SCCI.

There are about 300 tour operators in Sylhet. Following proper training, these tour operators can develop their expertise further and play vital role in tourism growth of Sylhet.

At the meeting, several proposals were made including preservation and cleaning of Sylhet's tourist sites, development of connectivity and security. They also proposed to facilitate on arrival visas at Sylhet ports for Indians.

Other officials of SCCI, PATA BD Chapter, ATAB, HAAB, TGAB, and Bangladesh Tourism Board were present at the meeting along with tour operators and tour guides of Sylhet.