

UNWTO calls for support to the Philippines

PR No.: PR13072

Madrid

12 Nov 13

UNWTO is deeply saddened by the devastating impact of typhoon Haiyan which hit an important part of the Visayas region in the Philippines. On behalf of the international tourism community, UNWTO conveys its heartfelt sympathy to the families of the victims and to the Government of the Philippines.

“Our thoughts at this difficult moment are with the families and friends of the victims and all those suffering in this tragic moment” said UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai. “UNWTO is confident that despite this tragic occurrence, the tourism sector in the Philippines will continue to strive and make a key contribution to the development of the country”, he added.

UNWTO has transmitted the Organization’s readiness to support the Philippines in any tourism-related recovery programme to be designed for the affected areas and is calling on the tourism industry and tourists to support the Philippines by donating their contributions to the on-going relief efforts of the various UN agencies operating on the ground.

“We call upon all tourism companies, associations and tourists from all around the world to contribute to the UN efforts being deployed to support the Philippines and show the solidarity of the sector with the people of the Philippines in this difficult moment”, Mr Rifai added.

Useful links:

[United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(UNOCHA\): Typhoon Haiyan](#)

[UNDP Philippines: Situation Updates](#)

[Official updates on Typhoon Haiyan \(Yolanda\) from the Government of the Philippines](#)

UN agencies with fund raising efforts

[UNICEF](#)

[World Food Programme](#)

[UNHCR](#)

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<http://media.unwto.org/en/press-release/2013-11-12/unwto-calls-support-philippines>

PATA Response for the Philippines

Posted: Tue 12 Nov, 2013 3:11 PM



Help the Philippines Recovery

Message from Martin J. Craigs, PATA CEO

Dear PATA family members

PATA joins with the world's caring communities in offering its condolences and support to the people of the Philippines in their hour of dire need.

Since the super storm Haiyan struck central parts of the Philippines, PATA HQ, the PATA Recovery Taskforce and the PATA Foundation have:

- Been in contact with local and national tourism officials in the Philippines to offer moral support and check on how we can most effectively offer practical help

- Speedily set up, with the personal intervention of Foundation Chair, Mario Hardy, an online [Appeal](#) to raise funds for the Philippines. We encourage all PATA members to make a direct donation [here](#).

- Earmarked US\$10,000 (subject to normal approvals), from the PATA Foundation to be contributed to the Philippine disaster relief fund. Each major PATA Chapter is encouraged to raise at least US\$1000.

- Received updates from PATA Executive Board member Andrew Jones who is in Cebu reporting regularly to PATA HQ . Useful feedback has also been received from PATA Philippines Chapter Chair Arnaldo 'Arnie' Bayag in Manila.

-Briefed media (Asian Wall Street Journal) on the need to maintain business confidence in the Philippine Tourism sector and its essential job creation/economic development role.

Please all note, according to OAG data, the major airports of Manila and Cebu are operating full services and the majority of major tourist destinations have not been impacted.

We simultaneously urge major donor entities such as Governments and international NGOs to continue to give generously and act swiftly to help the resilient Filipino people recover fast. This is, as Philippine President Aquino has made clear, a time of national calamity requiring exceptional recovery efforts.

PATA believes that tourists booked to visit the Philippines should contact their travel agents and pay attention to government travel advisories but continue wherever possible with plans to visit the Philippines.

The best way to help is to donate and keep travelling to boost the Philippine visitor economy. ***Visit the PATA Foundation and donate funds for the Philippines recovery [now](#)***

PATA has in recent times (PTM September 2012) been graciously and generously hosted by the Philippine's Tourism Ministry and industry. It is now pay back time.

PATA stands ready to offer additional help to the Philippines and is in contact with charitable agencies such as [AirLink](#) to establish additional tools for recovery.

Sincerely

Martin J Craigs

CEO

12 November 2013

<http://www.pata.org/news/pata-response-for-the-philippines>