

Casablanca hosted the 41st Congress of UFTAA

> Casablanca-Nour-eddine
Saoudi/Najib Khalifa

The city of Casablanca, the largest centre for business tourism in general and tourism in particular, hosted the 41st Congress of the Universal Federations of Travel Agencies Associations (UFTAA), organized in collaboration with the Regional Association of Travel Agencies of Casablanca. The theme was "responsible travel agencies for responsible tourism."



UFTAA Counsel

مجلس الفدرالية

This international meeting, held from 16th - 19th November, was attended by 200 representatives of professional associations in the world of travel from 37 countries. Sponsored by the King of Morocco, the Congress was marked by the presence of professional Moroccan and foreign personalities. The Moroccan Minister of Tourism, Mr. Mohamed Bousaid, delivered the opening speech emphasising the attention that the Moroccan government accords to this fundamental sector of the tourist industry. Tourism is a priority for Morocco because of its positive impact on economic and social development. The president of the Federation of Moroccan

Travel Agents welcomed the participants before giving the floor to Mr. J. Borg Olivier, president of UFTAA, who expressed his happiness to see the conference held "in a country for which he has a great respect and a great deal of consideration, a good and generous country, a country where the four seasons are permanent and where we find the plain with its greenery, the mountains and snow, and the desert and its sand." After that, Mr. Bousaid, officially declared the opening of the Congress and the delegations were invited to a grand hotel for a dinner hosted by the Moroccan airline; Royal Air Maroc (RAM). During the second day of this important



The Twin Towers of Casablanca
عمارة التوأمين / الدار البيضاء

international tourism gathering, delegates held their general assembly. The President of the Federation of Indian Travel Agents was then elected new president of UFTAA and many lectures were delivered on topics such as travel agencies and new technologies, travel agencies' card, travel agency-training, relations between travel agencies and airlines etc ▶



The garden of Casablanca's court

حديقة محكمة الدار البيضاء

On the evening of the second day delegates were invited to a dinner hosted by the Moroccan National Office of Tourism at the Royal Palace of Casablanca.

During the 3rd day, presentations were made on topics such as: "The Mediterranean and tourism" by the Italian Mario Bevacqua; "Air transport in eastern and western Africa," by a representative of RAM; "Safety and security in hotels," by the Belgian Paul Moxness; "Safety and security in coaches," by the Belgian Oleg Kamberski; "Safety and security at airports," by Abdelhanine Benallou, Director of the National Office of Moroccan Airports and "Eco-tourism" by Amine Hilfi from Morocco. Representatives of travel agencies around the world have expressed their concern about the development of the airlines' low-coast operations and travel bookings over the Internet.

The third day ended with business meetings between travel agents local and foreign to develop cooperation and partnership. The Philippines was designated as the venue for the 2008 congress.

The representatives of Islamic Tourism Magazine, Nour-eddine Saoudi and Najib Khalifa, participated actively in the work of this congress, especially in the conferences: "Media responsibility in tourism" and "Eco-tourism". They distributed copies of the magazine which were well received by the participants.

Finally, visits were organized for the benefit of

delegates to Casablanca and its surroundings. Casablanca is the first centre of business tourism, with hotels of a very high standing and an internationally renowned, and secure environment. It is a city with ceaseless activity, day and night, quality restaurants offering local and international dishes; markets and souks with numerous products of varying qualities and prices. Casablanca is also famous for its old quarter and its vast beaches stretching for dozens of miles. The port in the centre is one of the largest in Africa. It is surrounded by railway stations and there is no respite for traffic at Mohamed V International Airport. ■



The municipality building of Casablanca

مقر ولاية الدار البيضاء



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