

## **Towards more Partnerships**

We now have another successful Academy meeting behind us, thanks to the efforts of our host and the Academy teams. Paper sessions were enlightening and the business meeting has established some areas for further reporting and developments.

As members of the “partnerships” working party we were asked to provide possible links to other organizations. We held two breakfast meetings before preparing a report. Though limited in its scope and depth due to time constraint, the ad hoc committee presented a general scheme during the final business meeting. Misunderstandings and misinterpretations arising from this presentation need to be corrected and reconsidered.

It is important to be clear that the group was not directing attention towards undertaking consultancies; the expressed charge we were given and therefore our aim was enhancing tourism scholarship through sourcing the most effective linkages we can identify. Such partnerships and links might be with small NGO’s, other academies or institutions, or larger intergovernmental bodies. The nature of these linkages was not fully identified but could include simply mutual recognition, seeking members’ opinions, commenting on issues as individual experts or as an Academy working party.

The ad hoc committee will direct attention to these goals of identifying organizations with which we might forge links. We hope to do this with the full support of all Academy members and we want to avoid divisiveness caused by our efforts. Importantly any suggestions we do make are simply that –suggestions, and we report to the executive who will undoubtedly communicate these opportunities to the membership. We hope members have some enthusiasm for the partnership approach we seek to build for the Academy.

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