

Minutes of the General Meeting The Most Beautiful Bays in the World Halong Bay 30 April 2010



Present:

Jerome Bignon President

Bruno Bodard General Manager

Representatives of:

Rosa Bay, Brazil

Bay of Samana, Dominican Republic

Bay of Setúbal, Portugal

Bay of Santander, Spain

Bay of Chaleur, Canada

Bay of Tadoussac, Québec-Canada

Bay of Mont Saint Michel, France

Gulf of Morbihan-Bay of Quiberon, France

Bay of Somme, France

Yeosu Bay, South Korea

Bay of Bodrum, Turkey

Bay of Sine Saloum, Sénégal

Bay of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Kotor estuary, Montenegro

Gulf of Porto Corde, France

Bay of Puerto Galera, Philippines

Lang Co Bay, Vietnam

Nha Trang bay, Vietnam

Halong Bay, Vietnam

Guest bays:

Bay of Cambodia, Cambodia

Bay of Mac Kenzie, Yukon Canada

Bay of Patmos, Greece

Observing guests present:

Bay of Matsushima, Japan

Bay of San Francisco, USA

Bays absent with apologies:

Mindelo Bay, Cape Verde

Qingdao Bay, China

Bay of Diego Suarez, Madagascar

Bay of Pemba, Mozambique

Les Saintes Bay, Guadeloupe, France

Bay of Cartagena, Columbia

Applicant Bays absent with apologies

Bay of Fort de France, Martinique, France

Zadar Bay, Croatia

Bay of Roses, Catalonia, Spain

Mr Ngo Van Hung, Manager of the Halong Bay **development department**, organizer of the conference welcomed the guests and was happy to be able to welcome so many representatives from all over the world.

Halong Bay is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site and its managers work to maintain this highly symbolic site at a top international level in terms of protection, management, and development.

In addition this meeting coincided with the Halong festival, one of the most important popular events in Vietnam. Last of all, he said how important it is to fully back the Halong Bay application in the international competition aiming to list the World's 7 natural wonders.

President's report

The president Jérôme Bignon defended his very strong conviction that environment protection is the condition for good development.

According to the president, it is through protection that we can consider the development of any other activity. We must not oppose environment and development, but support these two essential cogs concomitantly, since one cannot go without the other and we must cite examples.

This intervention was a tremendous success!

Activity report by the General Manager

At the Santander executive committee meeting in November, the following recommendations were

approved.

Internal reorganization of staff:

Under the aegis of the general manager, Bruno Bodard and his assistant Mrs Michelle Pauly, Mr Emmanuel Bernard was retained for the maintenance of the website, Mr Francis Salaun for searching for and putting information online on the website. Strategy analysis was entrusted to Mr. Christophe Nevers.

Mr Stéphane Taupin will take charge of coordinating the virtual exchanges on a school level.

Visits

During the financial year 2009, our organization officially visited the bays of Yeosu, Cadix and Samana. The club was also officially presented at the Nha Trang Sea Festival.

The Elect president, Mr Galip Gur visited the Bay of Patmos, as well as the ITB in Berlin in the company of the general manager and Christophe Nevers.

Registering of the trademark

The manager reported that the Most Beautiful Bays in the World trademark was renewed with the World Intellectual Property Organization based in Geneva for 10 years.

Consequently, the trademark “Les plus belles baies du Monde” and “the Most Beautiful Bays in the World”, as well as the club logo are protected and can only be used (without any modification) by the member bays. (Madrid protocol)

The activity report was approved unanimously.

New bay members

Yeosu Bay in South Korea and **Samana y Rincon** bay were officially admitted and their acceptance ceremony with the presentation of their certificate was planned in the bay during the evening.

The application of by the Bay of Cadix (Spain) was rejected by the executive committee.

World Bay Day

It was suggested that the principle of a world bay day be finalized.

The general meeting retained the principle of organizing this day in the bays every year, around **8 June, World Oceans Day**.

On this day, the bays must organize a local event based on culture, gastronomy, and music, on a site symbolic of the bay. At this time, the local representatives of each bay will attribute the “Awards” intended for people, associations, companies, and local authorities that have carried out exemplary actions favouring the protection the bay, the sea or the preservation of resources and ecosystems.

Financial report

The treasurer and vice-treasurer presented the association's accounts and the budget project for 2010.

These were approved unanimously.

Presentation of new applicants

The general assembly assisted the presentation of the official applications by the bays of Cambodia, Patmos and Mc Kenzie

The president showed a marked interest in Patmos, which he knows very well. The assembly noted the support of Turkey and recognized that it was an additional strong sign in favour of its admission.

The bay of Cambodia also answers the criteria required and the Cambodian representatives admit to taking the necessary environmental concerns into consideration.

An official visit is programmed for autumn in order to continue the statutory admission procedures.

Lastly, the bay of Mac Kenzie on the Arctic Ocean is a perfect example of a fully preserved site that should avoid being frequented by the masses. Considering climate change, it may seem timely to have a bridgehead for the observation of the ecological changes on earth.

The president suggested that a visit be made to fully grasp the potential of the site and search for local official support.

Presentation of the new strategy

Following the agreement obtained by the executive committee, Christophe Nevers has made progress on reflections concerning the development of our network. He reported on the competition among NGOs, of the originality of our positioning, our strengths and weaknesses.

What emerged is that it would be advisable to focus on the sea, education and the preservation of this resource.

According to him, our organization is on the right track and its development must be through the Internet, our role as an interface and our capacity to commercialize spaces with partners able to assist us in our approach. We were reminded that our website was visited 46,000 times between April 2009 and April 2010.

It is extremely well indexed and the 5 sites that brought the largest number of visits to our site, in order:

tadoussac.com

tourismenouveaubrunswick.ca

omtlessaintes

somme.fr

Tourisme-vannes.com

(The summary document is available on request from the Most Beautiful Bays in the World)

General survey of actions carried out in the Bays

The president suggested, as has become customary now, that all bays should be left to present their key actions from the past or in progress.

We can recall:

-The “ecobeach” principle carried out by La Somme with natural drainage to recover the sand

- The action undertaken by the Mont Saint Michel Bay Association to extend the shuttle system to make access to the Mont easier for visitors.

The association has decided to support the actions carried out by representatives of the Bay of Mont Saint Michel.

- The Morbihan association has published a document to create awareness among fishermen of the need to respect the size of the species fished.
 - The Most Beautiful Bays in the World network supports the actions carried out by the Santander municipality aiming to prevent the deployment of a wind turbine plan that would completely disfigure the bay. For the moment, the project would appear to be at a deadlock.
 - Setubal is contemplating the establishment of a Setubal Bay Centre, in 2011, which would be a true showcase of local know-how and traditional products and the environmental quality of the site, not to mention the development of the Arrabida reserve and the sedentary colony of dolphins.
 - Galip Gur is now officially invited on behalf of the Bays on the Permanent Environmental Observation Committee of the Bay of Bodrum.
 - Very large efforts to create an awareness of the environment have been carried among schools of the Fatick province around Siné Saloum.
 - The Bay of Tadoussac has interacted through the Internet with schools, notably a school from the Gulf of Morbihan.
 - Imbituba, where the Bay of Rosa is located, will host "Whale week" on the second weekend of September with a tall-ships gathering. The American vice president, would like the club to be represented
 - The dynamic Puerto Galera Bay association intends to soon pass the 100 member mark and is considering organizing a large celebration for the occasion on the beach.
 - The representative of the Corsican bay presented us an outstanding film on the Scandola underwater reserve (listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO). He also reported the huge work towards recovering the rural environment.
 - Halong Bay is working on a bay project for 2020 to become an important maritime environment site internationally.
 - Nha Trang Bay organized an exceptional Sea Festival, probably the greatest festive event in the country. A magnificent float on the theme of coral protection represented the Most Beautiful Bays in the World.
- In June, the Hué province organized a very large ceremony, to which the Hué population contributed, to celebrate the entry of Lang Co Bay into our organization.

Jacmel Bay - Haiti

One of the members of the Samana Bay went to Haïti to meet the representatives of Jacmel Bay which applied to become a member before the terrible earthquake. He reported his travels which were both very interesting and moving. We realized that the bay is outstandingly beautiful and that its inhabitants would be very proud to be able to become a part of our network. This is an application that should be followed!

Conclusion

Faced with the large number of projects and their necessary coordination and our desire for the harmonious development of our organization, the president recommends the establishment of geographic basins with a coordinator for each of them.

To start with, the basins concerned will be: the Mediterranean, Latin America, North America, Western Africa, Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.

Consequently, regional conferences could be introduced and the congress would only take place every 2 years.

This organization could begin in spring 2011, with the welcoming of the European bays at Kotor in Montenegro, for the next executive committee meeting (project being studied).

The 7th World Congress could be held in 2011 in the Siné Saloum Delta in Senegal, by the invitation of Fatick province. (A study group will come to Vannes at the end of June to study the feasibility).

End of the General Meeting.