AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND NATIONAL TOURISM ADMINISTRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM

This Agreement is made between the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India and the National Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China (herein after referred to as "The Parties").

RECOGNISING the Parties are desirous to enhance the bilateral cooperation and strengthen the ties of the existing friendship between the two countries, realizing the importance of tourism sector in economic development and employment generation and mutual interests on equal grounds;

EMPHASISING the need to strengthen, deepen and broaden cooperation in tourism;

RECOGNISING further the importance of tourism in the enhancement of knowledge and understanding between their people and as an essential element of both countries;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of the Parties as partner and major source market for tourism;

HAVE REACHED the following understanding:

ARTICLE I

The Parties will seek, in accordance with their national laws of each country, to enhance the bilateral cooperation in tourism and hospitality sectors.

ARTICLE II

The Parties will encourage their citizens to travel to each other's country according to their applicable Laws, Rules and Instructions. The Parties shall promote cooperation and direct communication between the stakeholders of tourism and hospitality industry for enhancing tourism cooperation.

ARTICLE III

The Parties shall endeavor to enhance cooperation in following areas under this Agreement:

- a) Expansion of bilateral cooperation in tourism sector
- b) Exchange of information and data related to tourism
- c) Encouraging cooperation between tourism stakeholders including Hotels and Tour Operators
- d) Establishing exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development in tourism sector
- e) Investment in the Tourism and Hospitality sectors
- f) Exchanging visits of Tour Operators/Media/ Opinion Makers for promotion of two way tourism
- g) Exchange of experience in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management
- h) Participation in travel fairs/exhibitions in each other's country
- i) Promoting safe, honourable and sustainable tourism

ARTICLE IV

Within the framework of this Agreement in order to exchange views of the Parties and draw a road map for enhancing cooperation, the Parties may constitute a Joint Working Group which shall include an equal number of members of each Party. The Joint Working Group shall conduct periodical meetings preferably once in every two years in turn on pre-specified dates mutually agreed between the Parties.

The Parties may invite representatives from tourism trade and hospitality sector to attend these meetings.

ARTICLE V

For Joint Working Group Meetings, the sending Party shall bear all expenses on delegation's travel, boarding and lodging. All expenses for organizing the meeting shall be borne by the hosting country.

ARTICLE VI

Any difference or dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation and/or application of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through mutual consultations or negotiations between the Parties through diplomatic channels, without reference to any third party or international tribunal.

ARTICLE VII

Either Party may request in writing an amendment of all or any part of the Agreement through diplomatic channels.

Any amendment agreed to by the Parties will be reduced into writing and will form part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VIII

This Agreement shall come in to force on the date of signature by both the Parties.

This Agreement shall remain in force for five (5) years and shall stand automatically renewed for similar successive periods unless one Party informs the other Party through diplomatic channels for its desire to amend or terminate the same at least six months before its expiration date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have hereunder set their respective hands and seals on 15 May 2015 in Beijing in two (2) Original Copies each in Hindi, Chinese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

4, 426(4)2

For

Ministry of Tourism, Republic of India For

National Tourism

Administration, People's

Republic of China