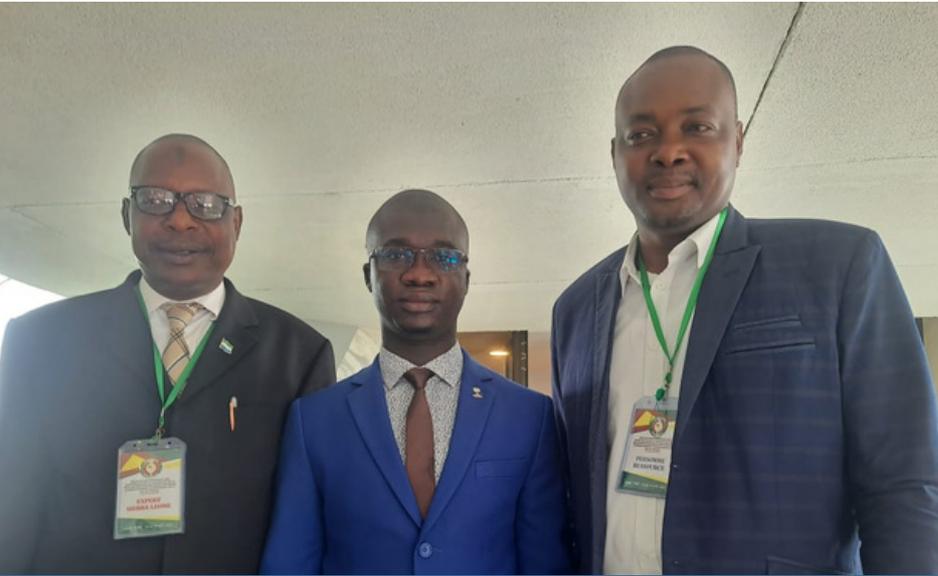




NEWS LETTER



ECOWAS STANDARDS



IN TOGO- LOME, SIERRA LEONE JOINED ECOWAS COUNTRIES TO OUTLINED NEW STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR HOTELS AND SIMILAR SERVICES ACROSS THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY SECTOR IN THE REGION.

By Kai Bockarie-Saquee

MR. ABRAHIM S. TURAY CLASSIFICATION AND QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER REPRESENTS SIERRA LEONE

Ministers of Tourism Ministries, Director Generals, Managers of Classifications and Quality Controls and Experts in the National Tourism sectors of Member States have assembled in Lomé Togo for a three day technical and professional meeting for Tourism and hospitality to clearly amend and validate the new regulatory fine texts for tourist accommodation and establishments within ECOWAS region.

It is sacrosanct; the amend and adoption of these new regulations will give the ECOWAS destination clear position and also harmonizes, standardization, qualitative and competitive accommodation services for the following auxiliaries: Hotels, Ecolodges, Motels, Apartment hotels, Hostels, Guest houses, Cruise-boat, Resorts Camping/caravan, Holiday village and Inns.



ECOWAS countries can now direct and control their own hotel classification criteria and control measures and systems with indept sources that capture international standards and trendy best practises applied to tourist accommodation and infrastructures around the world.

However, these amendments now defined a new sets of regulation with keen attention and affirmation to national cultural and architectural identities: as Monuments, relics and folklores at the same time considering the environment, climate, and creating labels and certificate that will be specific to the West African Region brand positioning.



Dr. Kossi G. LAMADOKOU, who served as the host welcomed the leaders of the tourism industry to the beautiful Country of Togo" this testifies to our common desire to make the tourism sector a lever for the economic and social development of our respective countries" he dilated and further paid tribute to the ECOWAS Commission to choosing the Togolese capital to mark a major turning point in the development strategy of tourism in Togo.

He emphasized the importance of this August gathering of experts, which will aid the region to improve its quality and competitiveness and thus contribute to raising the GDP of the ECOWAS zone.

A clarion call by Dr, Anthony Luka ELUMELU, ECOWAS Director for Private Sector, who represented the Commissioner for Economic Affairs & Agriculture, Mrs. Massandjé TOURE-LITSE reiterated the commitment of participants to the development of the sustainable tourism sector in the region.

He hailed the large contributions made by the tourism industry to many economies around the world, which has increased the demand for tourist accommodation.

However, the associated demand comes with the need for proper regulation to ensure the safety and comfort of tourists, as well as the sustainability of the industry, he added.

He recalled that the hotel supply within the ECOWAS region was guided by the text prepared by the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat in 1999, which no longer meets the needs of the growing industry that has evolved and transformed with the deployment of new accommodation formulas such as guest rooms and ecolodges.

These emerging issues are what inspired the revision of the regulatory texts: among others the attraction, accessibility, amenities, security and environmental imperatives without forgetting the public health aspects induced by the shock of epidemics and pandemics that have riled our region, he said

Participants were presented with the regulatory texts for the classification of tourist accommodation establishments by Mrs Stella Christiane DRABO, Program Officer Tourism ECOWAS and subsequent recommendations will be validated by the Ministers in Charge of Tourism in ECOWAS, at the ministerial meeting on Friday, 7th April, 2023.

