

## Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management – August 2008

Just a gentle reminder to WMS staff from the Tourism and Hospitality Department that if you are not a USA passport holder but are intending to travel to the USA, you are now required by the US Immigration authorities to log into the internet web site <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/> and complete the formalities at least 3 days prior to departure. The resultant documentation is valid for two years. You might also want to look at New Zealand Government guidance on <http://www.dia.govt.nz/DIAwebsite.nsf/067836c74bbfd7e0cc256831000e309e/316a11c6cb57d307cc256e1600147a21!OpenDocument>. The programme is entitled 'Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) for Visa Waiver Program (VWP)' in case the web pages change and you need to use a search engine. You might also want to note that when I clicked on the US Visa web page, and used the menu item marked, 'how to apply for a visa', Google could not find the page and the link was broken. So, do not leave this to the last moment. You can apply at any stage prior to travel.



**Alison McIntosh** was wishing she would have been able to obtain pre-visit clearance when recently visiting Jerusalem as a key note for a conference being held there. Not having visited Jerusalem previously, she was unaware that the venue was in the Palestinian sector of

the city. From the viewpoint of the Israeli security forces it was regarded as a matter of suspicion that a) she fly from Bristol to Bruxelles to pick up the El Al flight to Israel, b) she was travelling alone c) she had not previously been to Israel, d) as a Professor in Tourism she had very few stamps in her British passport, e) she had no direct contact with the venue of the conference. Finally she was able to persuade them to let her fly from Bruxelles, but had apparently a non-communicative Israeli security air marshal sat next to her for the whole flight, who also tracked her every movement, including visits to the toilet. Finally, after further delays in Israel, she was able to contact Yoel Mansfield at Haifa University with whom she has been writing a book, and she was then able to travel to the conference venue without her baggage. However, her keynote was subsequently praised as being conceptually innovative, and needless to say all ended well – but if you query why she had to cut the power cord of her laptop in Scotland – well that is another story!

The above photograph shows Alison at the conference. The Conference was one comprising delegates by invitation only – each of whom are deemed to be experts in the field of cultural heritage. Hence Alison's pleasure on the reception to her presentation.

**Jenny Cave** has been in Canada connecting with colleagues in St John's Newfoundland. Again this is a traveller's tale of some misadventure as the University Travel Agents had failed to take into account the crossing the dateline when making travel arrangements, and that was in addition to getting car hire arrangements wrong. However, colleagues such as Keith Dewar (who was a former colleague of Chris Ryan's when they were both at Massey University more than 10 years ago) and Lee Joliffe more than made Jenny and Stuart Locke welcome. One highlight was a visit to Fort Louisburg and an assessment of the interpretation techniques used there – which subject had actually been examined in Keith's doctoral thesis.

Talking of doctoral students, one of the many interesting doctoral studies being carried out within the Department is that of **Rose Omondi's** into sex tourism along the Kenyan coastal resorts. Because of the ease of Skype and e-mail, today it is relatively easy to sustain contact over distance and time. Rose sent the Department a short update for the Inform newsletter and this is reproduced below.



At the start of her data collection process, Rose says she almost gave up - she found it difficult to cope with the girls whom she found to be moody, drug addicts, drunkards, smokers ...you name it! Some were also very scary from their looks, they have raste and rings all over their body and as such, they look like creatures from another planet all together! After two months of immersing herself with the lives of sex workers, she has learnt that they are people and very friendly people for that matter and indeed she has become like one of them (like a big sister). Rose hopes a book will come out of her research.

One question that she has to constantly respond to from people is why she is researching on sex tourism - she always gives varying answers that range from the time she was invited for a feminist conference in Norway and had three topics to choose from (1) women and domestic work (2) women and marriage and (3) women and sex work especially sex tourism. She chose the later because she had done some work on tourism before and thought she could combine the two (sex and tourism); to other reasons like wanting to do that which others find challenging or hard to talk about, to blaming it on Chris Ryan and Michael Hall for writing a book on it. Of late she has been faced with a different kind of question- how has this study changed your views on sex work? Her answer has been - I no longer see it as exploitative to women since some women have gained from it while for others, it is a choice since it is a part time job for them neither is it immoral because there is really nothing so 'immoral' about it - so let those who want to do it, do it she says.

Recently, Rose was in Madrid Spain for 4 days to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> international interdisciplinary congress on women which took place from July 3-9<sup>th</sup> 2008. She had a paper on human trafficking in Kenya and was pre-selected in advance to moderate the session on human trafficking. She says there is little academic work actually done in this congress, which takes place every three years. In her view, it is a way in which women have found to travel the world over and to make noise about equality that seems, however, to be making little difference to the lives of the people they discuss. She loves attending though because they provide her with the opportunity to meet other women. She looks forward to attending the next one in Ottawa in 2011 where she will present a paper on the 'Exclusion of Women in Political Leadership in Kenya: A personal Experience.'

**Asad Mohsin** was away in July visiting a series of Universities in Malaysia as a part of a New Zealand delegation and representing both New Zealand and Waikato University. He reported that New Zealand is not well known in that part of the world, and while some had heard of Auckland, and perhaps Otago University, it was a pleasure to enlighten them about Waikato, and particularly the triple accredited Business School. However, a week after he came back Chris was complaining to Asad that he had increased his work load because of a batch of papers being received from Malaysia and being submitted to *Tourism Management!* It does seem that factual data that relates to research achievements is important when talking to overseas institutions. Hence the Department is going to establish a 499 project to benchmark the Department's research outputs against other Universities with reference to publications achieved in the leading tourism and hospitality journals. A study undertaken by Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2005 showed the Department to rank 14<sup>th</sup> in the world for the period 2000-2005. We thought this was pretty amazing given we had been a Department for just 5 years and were then being ranked against real heavyweights in our file with much more resource (for example Purdue, Surrey and Hawaii Universities). We believe that we would now rank higher, but need to factually assess whether this is the case.

In July **Chris Ryan** attended the Asia Pacific Tourism Association Conference as the New Zealand representative on the Board. He attended the Association meeting and has since reported to professorial colleagues in other New Zealand universities. In addition he attended a board meeting of the International Tourism Studies Association, for which he holds a title of 'Distinguished Professor'. At the conference Chris gave three papers, one of which was co-authored with **Girish Prayag**, another of our doctoral students. A second paper was one co-authored with **Olivia Yang**, a BMS student, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> was co-authored with Professor Gu Huimin from Beijing International Studies University. In October **Tim Lockyer** will spend a month at the new state of the art Hotel School recently built by that University, and which is co-accredited by Ecole Hotelier de Lausanne – and thus linkages are now being built between Waikato, Beijing and the Emirates Academy (also co-accredited by the same Swiss Hotel School) and the 2008 Euro-Chrie conference will see staff from all 4 institutions attending, including **Anne Zahra**.

In July Anne was in Queensland attending the Papal visit as part of a wider project into both volunteer and religious tourism. With Gregory **Willson** completing doctoral studies in this area, and Alison's book with Yoel Mansfield also on the same topic, plus Anne and Alison's recent journal article on the topic, the Department is beginning to acquire some knowledge in this area. To add to this Chris Ryan with doctoral students **Sam Yeh** and **Maggie Liu** have also had accepted for publication an article on Taoism tourism associated with the goddess Mazu accepted for publication, while Gu Huimin and Chris Ryan have now submitted for review work on Buddhist tourism in Shanxii. To add to this, in August the Department welcomed back **Ong Chin Ee** who is researching on tour guides as intermediaries in Macau, who was accompanied by his colleague, **Cora Wong**. Both lecture in tourism in Macau, and have commenced their doctoral studies with the Department. Cora is looking at tourism in the Buddhist area of Putoushan in China. Part of her study is based on the impact of tourism on the monastic orders that live on the island. Our Chinese links also means that later in the year

we are expecting **Jingjing Yang** to start her doctoral studies. Meanwhile Zhang Wei and her husband have taken a short break to return to Beijing for the Olympics – and have acquired some tickets – including for the USA basketball match against Poland. Both have also been told to wave their kiwi flags! Indeed, our Chinese students are waving their flags when China is not involved, and were present at the New Zealand vs. Mali basketball match as shown the accompanying photograph taken at the venue.



We were also pleased to note that not only is there an increase in student numbers this semester in the Department, but to welcome more students from the Indian sub-continent, some of who are on the Post Graduate Diploma and Master's degree programme. Both Tim Lockyer and Asad Mohsin are hoping that they may be able to utilise their growing links with Indian universities and the hospitality industry for future 592 papers.