



## **REGIONAL TOURISM YOUTH CONGRESS**

### **What is it?**

The Regional Tourism Youth Congress is an integral part of the Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO) annual tourism programme and is a regional activity involving students between the ages of 14 and 17 from CTO member countries. Its main aim is to stimulate greater awareness and excitement about tourism among young people in our Caribbean communities, by allowing them to research various facets of the tourism sector and share their ideas and vision, with respect to future directions for Caribbean Tourism.

### **How to become involved in the Congress?**

Students become involved in the Youth Congress by participating in national inter-school debates or other selection processes, which are organized by the Ministry of Tourism/Board of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in the respective country. The student representative selected from the country represents his/her country at the Regional Tourism Youth Congress and is given the title of '*Junior Minister of Tourism*'. The title is held for one (1) year and the student is given the opportunity to be involved in tourism-related activities, throughout the year, in his/her country to enhance their knowledge of tourism.

### **What is the Format of the Congress?**

The Congress is structured to mirror a CTO Board of Directors' Meeting. There is a Chairman, who is the winner of the previously held Regional Tourism Youth Congress and who ensures that the proceedings go smoothly and presentations are conducted in an orderly and efficient manner. There are also Junior Ministers of Tourism, who represent their respective countries and make presentations on behalf of their national tourism organizations.

The CTO prepares three (3) topics and sends to each country, in advance of the regional event. Students are required to choose **one** of those topics, research it and share their knowledge and views on that topic with their fellow Junior Ministers at the Regional Tourism Youth Congress. ***The Youth Congress is not a debating competition***; it is a discussion among the Junior Ministers which generates practical ideas that can be implemented at the national/regional levels.

Students are also required to address a mystery topic. Three (3) mystery topics will be put forward for consideration and each student presents on one of those mystery topics.

RESEARCH & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | MARKETING | COMMUNICATIONS | ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT | EDUCATION & TRAINING | SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

*Leading Sustainable Tourism - One Sea, One Voice, One Caribbean*



Time allotment:

- **Prepared topic** – each student will be given **three (3) minutes** to express his/her ideas on the chosen topic.

For the prepared topic, the respective timing mechanism is used at the end of 2 minutes, indicating that 1 minute is left for student to finish his/her point(s).

If the three (3) minutes are up and the student has not finished speaking, then the timing mechanism is used rapidly indicating that time is up.

- **Mystery topic** – the students receive all three mystery questions before the start of the event and are given 5 minutes to make notes on each question. During this segment of the event, the Chairman will invite each student in alphabetical order according to country, to open his/her envelope. After the student opens the envelope,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a **minute** is given to read the question and then **(1) minute** to respond. It is important that when answering, that the student states which question he/she is answering for the judges.

Also for this segment, the respective timing mechanism is used at 30 seconds into the presentation and then at the one (1) minute to indicate time is up.

How can one benefit from the Congress?

Students who participate in the Congress benefit from exposure to the 3Es in tourism: *Excitement, Education and Entertainment*; gain greater awareness of tourism within his/her country and beyond through participating in the tourism conference; experience the tourism product of another country; and get to meet new friends from across the region.