

NEWS RELEASE

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MCW Creates Tourism Jobs for Youth in Africa

Buea, CAMEROON, Saturday, October 19, 2013 – MCW Chief Operating Officer, Khalid Elachi, participated in an international tourism conference at the Mountain Hotel in Southwest Cameroon from October 16-20, 2013.

In his presentation on expanding opportunities for African youth in travel and tourism, Elachi focused on how MCW's community centers provide low-cost quality education to youth who may not have had the opportunity to continue their education after primary or secondary school.

"Tourism in Africa is growing and, in turn, creating more job opportunities – in hotels, as tour guides, with food and services, and arts and crafts," said Elachi. "MCW's centers provide the skills that enable youth to take advantage of these job opportunities."

Elachi gave the example of the center in Arusha, a main hub for tourism in Tanzania and East Africa. He explained that the center offers English courses, providing training for tour guides and jobs at hotels. He also spoke about how the center's IT/computer courses offer youth the basic skills needed for positions in hotels and airline offices. He added that the center also provide training for cultural events through performing arts classes.

He moved beyond the centers in Tanzania to explain how those in Zambia and Rwanda offer handcraft training courses and micro-enterprise initiatives that engage local communities directly in the tourism economy.

Elachi was joined by Joseph Okelo, the Director of Global Travel and Tourism Partnership in Kenya, who spoke about the career training opportunities his non-profit offers to tourism and hospitality students across Africa and around the world.



Khalid Elachi receives a gift of appreciation from the Minister of Tourism and Leisure of Cameroon.