

# TPB MEMBER INFO UPDATE: COVID 19



(From left to right: TPB COO Maria Anthonette C. Velasco-Allones, Shroff Int'l. Travel Care, Inc. CEO Arjun P. Shroff, Tourism Congress of the Philippines President Jose Clemente III, and Group Editor, Travel Update Philippines Buddy Recio in a huddle before ECQ.)

## Family, Faith and yes, FUN in the Time of COVID

We all have entered this dark night of our lives.

But the resilience, grit and humor of the Filipino keep us optimistic, as we observe safe distancing, master the art of quarantine and harness technology to keep us connected and maintain a functional virtual workplace.

With the tourism sector feeling the heavier brunt of this COVID pandemic, we at TPB endeavor to continue to support the Department of Tourism in its COVID response initiatives, and you, our partners and stakeholders, in order for us to remain focused in providing immediate and contingent relief measures, while doing forward planning to proactively stage our recovery plan. In the meantime, the enhanced community quarantine compelled us to stay home with our families. This adversity continues to give us this opportunity to renew our family ties. This also gave us the gift to redefine what a family means. In the Filipino context, a family is more than blood relations; a family is anyone to whom we can extend an act of kindness. The TPB supported DOT's efforts to take care of our returning OFWs as they mandatorily observed quarantine before reuniting with their respective families.

We also helped ensure that no foreign tourist will be left stranded, and that the needs of our stranded local tourists are also responded to. We also continue to provide support to our tourism front liners across the country as we affirm the unity of the DOT family. *Continue to next page.*

### MESSAGE FROM TPB COO

#### DOT-R9 PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STRANDED TOURISTS IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

#### DOT ASSISTS 6,000 TOURISTS STRANDED IN MIMAROPA

#### UNWTO LAUNCHES A CALL FOR ACTION FOR TOURISM'S COVID-19 MITIGATION AND RECOVERY

#### WTTC CORONAVIRUS BRIEF

#### PATA TOURISM RECOVERY MONITOR

### AND MORE...



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This week, we continue to deepen our acts of faith to combat the pervasive sense of fear that sometimes cripples us from acting with compassion and sympathy. The TPB and Intramuros Administration put together virtual pilgrim tours, Visita Iglesia and the Stations of the Cross for our catholic community worldwide. We also endeavored to flavor the tours with sites of our heritage pride and also the historical and cultural pilgrim places across the country.

And now the tough question...how do we have fun in this time of COVID? Or can we even have fun? The answer to this lies partly in appreciating that tourism is more than just our scenic places, nor the diverse adventures we used to do physically together. Right now, I'm having fun witnessing our shared compassion for others; in seeing the growing sense of patriotism among Filipinos; in fostering a culture of obedience to the authorities; in the collective discernment on how everything and everyone is connected in more ways than we used to realize; and the conscious cultivation of hope made manifest in our total reliance on the Divine.

We will see you all at the break of dawn. And I'm confident with God's grace, we will have more fun.

*Maria Anthonette C. Velasco-Allones*  
Chief Operating Officer  
Tourism Promotions Board

## **DOT-R9 Provides Technical Assistance to Stranded Tourists in the Midst of the COVID-19 Crisis**



Photo credit: Department of Tourism -Region 9

The Department of Tourism Region 9 (DOT-R9) headed by its Concurrent OIC Regional Director Myra Paz Valderrosa-Abubakar, assisted the stranded foreign tourists in Region 9 who were affected by the declaration of Enhanced Community Quarantines in the region due to the pandemic Coronavirus Diseases 2019 (COVID-19).

**Read more:**

[https://www.facebook.com/tourism9zampen/posts/2851385578261434?\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=K-R](https://www.facebook.com/tourism9zampen/posts/2851385578261434?__tn__=K-R)

## **DOT assists 6,000 tourists stranded in MIMAROPA**

MANILA - The Department of Tourism in Region 4B (DOT-4B) has assisted 6,371 tourists stranded, mostly in Palawan province. The DOT southwestern Tagalog regional office, whose areas of responsibility include Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan (MIMAROPA), recently set up a command center in coordination with the region's local government units (LGUs) and facilitated the transfer of the stranded foreigners of different nationalities through 87 recovery flights of various airlines and chartered private planes in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) and Immigration authorities.

**Read more:**

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1098383>



## UNWTO Launches a Call for Action for Tourism's COVID-19 Mitigation and Recovery

UNWTO, 01 April 2020

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has released a set of recommendations calling for urgent and strong support to help the global tourism sector not only recover from the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 but to 'grow back better'. The Recommendations are the first output of the Global Tourism Crisis Committee, established by UNWTO with high-level representatives from across the tourism sector and from within the wider United Nations system.

Read more:

<https://unwto.org/news/unwto-launches-a-call-for-action-for-tourisms-covid-19-mitigation-and-recovery>



## PATA Tourism Recovery Monitor

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Tourism Recovery Monitor is "designed to be a unified resource for strategic tourism planners and decision makers," bringing together experts and partners in the various tourism and travel sectors to share valuable information to aid the industry in its recovery efforts.

Read more:

<https://ptrm.pata.org/tourism-recovery-monitor/>

## How to Protect Your Hotel Business During the COVID-19 Outbreak

eHotelier Guest Contributor, Insights, 18 March 2020

As of early March 2020, the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak has infected nearly 100,000 people, claimed over 3,000 lives and spread to more than 70 countries outside of China where the virus originated. As these numbers are certain to continue to climb in the coming weeks, the disruptive impact to the global travel and hospitality industry is sure to be lasting and significant.

Read more:

<https://insights.ehotelier.com/insights/2020/03/18/how-to-protect-your-hotel-business-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

## WTTC Coronavirus Brief

The World Tourism & Travel Council (WTTC) highlights the need for collaboration and alignment during this period as it leads the sector through this crisis and its recovery. WTTC issues a regularly updated Coronavirus Brief which shares latest figures, impacts, research, best practices, and other relevant information on the crisis.



Access download:

<https://www.wttc.org/pdf/download?pdfID=88ca9771a3b7450ba89af43ef07783f5>

I pray to the birds.  
I pray to the birds because  
I believe they will carry  
the messages of my heart upward.  
I pray to them because  
I believe in their existence,  
the way their songs begin and end each  
day, the invocations and benedictions of  
earth.  
I pray to the birds because they remind  
me of what I love rather than what I  
fear.  
And at the end of my prayers,  
they teach me how to listen.

TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS



## Free Online Course

Hotelier.com offers online courses through its eAcademy, including a FREE COURSE for Hoteliers: Coronavirus Awareness

Coronavirus Awareness is a short but comprehensive course on how to prevent, control, communicate and manage coronavirus (COVID-19) incidents in hotels. Designed by eHotelier specifically for the hospitality industry, this course is relevant for all hotel and hospitality professionals. Coronavirus Awareness is a completely free resource. Please share among your colleagues and staff.



Access to the course:  
<https://academy.ehotelier.com/coronavirus-awareness/>

## PCMA Coronavirus News & Resources for the Business Events Industry

The Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA), the world's largest network of business events and strategists with 7,000 members and a global audience of 50,000, shares Covid-19 resources and insights in Leading the Global Events Business Industry to Coronavirus Recovery. Resources include Digital Event Tips & Case Studies, Latest COVID-19 Events News, COVID-19 Webinars, and others.

Access resources:

[https://www.pcma.org/coronavirus-business-events-professionals-need-to-know-faq/?utm\\_medium=top-cta&utm\\_source=pcma\\_home](https://www.pcma.org/coronavirus-business-events-professionals-need-to-know-faq/?utm_medium=top-cta&utm_source=pcma_home)

## Spiritual Resources During the COVID 19 Pandemic

Harvard Divinity School (HDS)

The Office of the Chaplain and Religious and Spiritual Life has assembled some spiritual resources during the COVID-19 pandemic from members of the wider HDS community and our friends around the world.

Access to the course:

<https://hds.harvard.edu/life-at-hds/religious-and-spiritual-life/spiritual-resources-during-covid-19-pandemic>

## HOLY WEEK REFLECTION

A POEM ABOUT HOPE IN  
CORONAVIRUS TIMES BY  
KITTY O'MEARA

*And the people stayed home.*


*And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.*

*And listened more deeply.  
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.*

*And the people healed*

*And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*



THE MANILA CATHEDRAL

# HOLY WEEK 2020

Schedules of Live Stream of Holy Week Services:

- + APRIL 05 | PALM SUNDAY**  
SUNDAY MASSES  
8:00am, 10:00am, & 6:00pm
- + APRIL 09 | MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
5:00pm
- + APRIL 10 | GOOD FRIDAY**  
CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
3:00pm
- + APRIL 11 | HOLY SATURDAY**  
EASTER VIGIL  
5:00pm
- + APRIL 12 | EASTER SUNDAY**  
SUNDAY MASSES  
8:00am, 10:00am, & 6:00pm

Live stream updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/themanilacathedral/posts/>

*Your feedback matters.*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFt0wsQ17I2gaUH65MXAF06BTdG64UdZ5FRIE9PsEmUMLw/viewform>

FOR YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.