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This letter aims to express our interest in participating as a partner the IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.

The Professional Hotel Managers Association (POYD) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that was established in Antalya in 1992 with the objective of developing professionalism within the hotel industry and of identifying joint solutions to the problems facing the sector. It currently has 695 active members. The association's membership comprises senior managers of well-known brand and chain hotels operating in Antalya.

The objectives of the NGO are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to supporting the sustainability certification process, (in Türkiye, it has become mandatory for hotels by the Ministry of Tourism), social and environmental projects are created or supported with the intention of fostering a more sustainable sector. Information on current issues (conferences, seminars, etc.) is provided at the members' meetings, which are held on a regular basis (every month). Furthermore, examples of good practices from the sector are also shared. In addition to conducting training and awareness-raising activities, increasing the resilience of staff and, moreover, the wider society is an important issue for the tourism managers who are members of the association.

Antalya is described as the "Capital of Tourism" in terms of the number of tourists it hosts. In 2023, approximately 15 million tourists visited Antalya, which is the center of attention of tourists with its historical and natural beauties, cultural structures, and ancient cities as well as its sea, sand and sun. With this number, Antalya is among the top 10 most visited cities in the world. There are 812 hotels in Antalya, 418 of which are 5 stars and 218 of which are 4 stars, and 46 holiday villages with 5 and 4 star concepts. The bed capacity in the city has reached 648,285, of which 450,138 are 5 and 4 stars. The majority of the hotels in Antalya, which has a coastline of 630 kilometers, are located on the seaside.

Türkiye experienced a major earthquake disaster in 2023. This earthquake makes it imperative to raise awareness of the tsunami that is associated with the earthquake. As Antalya is a coastal city, we believe it is imperative to raise tsunami awareness among hotel employees, our guests from all over the world and the local people. In this context, we would like to be a part of your "Tsunami Ready" programme, which we are aware of thanks to the examples of good practice, and we aim to use your expertise to inform and raise awareness in order to save the lives of people who may be exposed to tsunami in the event of a possible disaster and to minimize the effects of this disaster.

Given the extensive geographical scope of our operations, we have identified the Belek region as the optimal starting point for the project. This region boasts over 50 hotels and represents a suitable pilot area for the project. Following the completion of the initial phase, we will evaluate the outcomes and subsequently implement a phased approach to the wider region, including Alanya, Kemer and ultimately the entire province of Antalya.

POYD will assume responsibility for the coordination of information and awareness activities. A total of 1,500 personnel will be trained in the initial phase, which is scheduled for 2025, with an additional 5,000 personnel undergoing training in subsequent stages. Subsequently, the objective is to enhance the awareness of our clientele and to disseminate information to the local population living in the coastlines.

Furthermore, it would be beneficial to incorporate into the emergency plans of hotels guidance on the appropriate response to a tsunami warning.

Since the peak season of the hotels is in the summer months, it will be appropriate to hold the trainings between January-April 2025. The planning of the trainings, allocation of space for the trainings, transportation of the personnel and catering organisation will be carried out by POYD at no-cost to UNESCO.

We kindly request your assistance in the assignment of expert personnel for the provision of training, in conjunction with the provision of training material and training.

We look forward to sharing the positive outputs to be obtained at the end of the project, which will also have important contributions in risk management, situational awareness, climate awareness, etc., and announcing them to the whole world as a good example.

We would be grateful for your positive opinions and evaluations of our collaboration with POYD as a partner.

Best wishes and kind regards.



Hakan SAATÇIOĞLU
Chairman