UN DESA/PACRIM Forum: Accessible Tourism for Inclusive and Sustainable Development (Hawaii, USA, 17 May 2014)

The Division for Social Policy and Development of Department of Economic and Social Affairs (SCRPD/DSPD/DESA) at the United Nations, the Secretariat of the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity (PACRIM) and the University of Hawaii, will co-organize a DESA/ PACRIM Discussion Forum on “accessible tourism for inclusive and sustainable development” as a contribution to the on-going discussion toward disability-inclusive post 2015 development framework. The sessions will take place at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on Saturday, May 17, 2014.

The Forum will present an interactive consultation that will be attended by representatives of governments, tourism agencies, Disabled People’s Organizations, academic institutions, media and the private sector as well as experts in accessibility and technology from around the world.

The objectives of the DESA/PACRIM Forum are to discuss the emerging issues and trends in regional and national efforts, share promising practices in promoting accessible tourism (1) to make a contribution to the promotion of the implementation of the Outcome Document of the UN High Level Meeting on Disability and Development; (2) demonstrate accessible tourism as a means to promote inclusive and sustainable development, especially in areas such as poverty reduction, employment and job-creation and advance social integration. Furthermore, the outcome of this Forum, especially the experience and expertise from the Asia/Pacific Rim region could inform and contribute to the ongoing global discourses on the post-2015 development frameworks that DESA is facilitating.

The DESA/PACRIM Forum is part of the Center on Disability’s ongoing efforts to build partnerships throughout the world by hosting dynamic global gatherings such as the annual Pacific Rim International Forum on Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities. Among the UN high-level diplomats and speakers attending this year’s Forum are Daniela Bas from DESA, Akiko Ito, Chief of the Secretariat of the CRPD at the UN and many global experts on accessibility, tourism and technology including Juanita Liu, Interim Dean and Professor at the School of Travel Industry Management.

Dean Young will welcome the Forum participants at a special luncheon during the Forum. Dr. Rebecca Ozaki, the 2014 Forum Rapporteur, will field questions and statements from as far away as Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Indonesia and New Zealand.

\* DESA Forum on Development and Disability is a global multi-stakeholder forum for exchange of views and new ideas for way forward for disability-inclusive development under the auspices of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. The views expressed in this forum by the experts do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations, nor co-sponsoring organizations.