



Klaus Lengefeld
Managing Director, Tourism DreamTeam

Klaus Lengefeld is an international advisor for sustainable hotel&tourism development.

Klaus has both a very practical background – he is a licenced truck mechanic - and an academic background in education and sustainable development from the universities of Frankfurt and Berlin. In 1982 he started his professional career in promoting sustainable development and appropriate technologies for German and international development agencies. In 2002-2004 he took the international compact course on hotel&destination development, a joint program of prestigious Universities such as St. Gallen/Switzerland, Innsbruck/Austria, Trier/Germany and Bozen/Bolzano, Italy.

His tourism career started in 1997 as advisor for sustainable tourism development for GIZ , the German Agency for International Cooperation in Central America. GIZ is a government-owned limited company for sustainable development, implementing projects with nearly 20.000 staff in more than 130 countries. After his return from Central America in 2002, Klaus became Sector Leader Tourism and Sustainable Development at GIZ Head Office in Eschborn, Germany. In this position, he started unique initiatives to bridge the gap between development cooperation and mainstream tourism. He was the first to take a closer look into the socio-economic benefits of hotels, All-Inclusive and luxury resorts in destinations from the Caribbean to South-East Asia. His studies in cooperation with major hotel companies such as Marriott, Six Senses, Hilton, Jumeirah, Sandals, Barceló, TUI-Robinson proved that Travel&Tourism is a major driver of a climate-friendly and inclusive Green Economy.

Klaus was invited to present his findings at major events such as:

- the International Hotel Investment Forum IHIF in Berlin, in which he has taken part since 2003,
- World Economic Forum Asia 2012 in Bangkok and 2013 in Myanmar, and World Economic Forum Latin America 2013 in Lima, Perú, where he presented at the Travel&Tourism summit with Arne Sorenson, CEO of Marriott;
- World Bank Group Tourism Forum 2015

Besides his main assignment as Sector Leader Tourism for GIZ, Klaus is since 2005 supporting sustainable hotel development and investment in cooperation hotel companies, technology supplier and investment banks such as World Bank IFC and German private sector development bank DEG.

On the academic side, he has been serving since 2006 as visiting professor teaching sustainable tourism at Heilbronn University, Germany. Klaus has also given guest lectures at Harvard's sustainable tourism program and is advisor to Harvard's International Sustainable Tourism Initiative.

At this moment, Klaus is founding the "Tourism DreamTeam" as a network of some of the world's best sustainable tourism advisors.