Conference Proceeding

TROPICAL TOURISM OUTLOOK CONFERENCE:
Balancing Development and Sustainability in Tourism Destinations

Lombok, 29-31 July 2015

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Mataram, Nusa Tenggara Barat, INDONESIA
PREFACE

Undeniably, tourism has become one the most extensive industries in the world. UNWTO records that the number of international tourists rockets in the last six decades, from just about 25 millions people travelled abroad in 1950 to more than 1 billion in 2014. Further, the number is projected to reach 1.8 billion international tourists by 2030. Such phenomenon may be the reason of many countries to adopt tourism as a key industry to support their economy. Nevertheless, tourism has two sided-impacts: aside of its benefits, tourism may bring disbenefits to destination people and their environment. In other words, tourism as an industry can be beneficial or detrimental to a destination country depending on a country’s ability to manage it. Such impacts challenge efforts of every tourist destinations to develop tourism sustainably.

A number of alternative models have been adopted by many tourist destinations to sustain their tourism development, some of which includes green tourism, ecotourism, pro-poor tourism, and special interest tourism. Further, some countries develop mass tourism and invest billion of dollars on tourism infrastructure, while the others encourage small-scale tourism enterprises among their people. Nonetheless, none of those models is more sustainable than another, and be better model for a tourist destination. Understanding the complexity of tourism and the contextual nature of each destination may be the key factors to understand the phenomena of sustainable tourism development. To develop such understanding, constant studies on tourism are required. It is, therefore, imperative to say that academic forums, such as this conference, are critical occasions where tourism studies from around the world are presented, discussed, and shared to other tourism stakeholders. Hopefully, this conference can be productive discussion arena, and we can better understand the phenomena of sustainable tourism development.

Happy conferencing!!

H. Akhmad Saufi
Chairman
PhD of International Tourism and Hospitality Management
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