Book Review: ‘Island Tourism in Malaysia’ (Malay Version)

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Concept

This book is a work of edits to examine the island’s tourism development in the context of development, management and its implications in the various issues and perspectives. This book consists of four parts. A section entitled ‘The development of tourism in the island’ which includes three chapters, namely the issue of the environment and economic development of the island, the impact of globalization on the development of tourism and local communities on the island and an assessment of the tourism infrastructure in the resort island destination.

Chapter 1 examines two key issues in the development of the island, namely the preservation of the environment and the economy. This chapter explores the main challenges in order to promote sustainable tourism sector that is able to balance between long-term environmental and ecological quality of the resort island, especially the island that has been gazetted as a marine park. Based on a study of the capacity power issue in some island with marine park status was found that Tioman and Redang Islands has undergone rapid expansion phase while Sibu and Tinggi Islands are still at the stage of lower power capacity.

Chapter 2 also debate about the impact of globalization on the development of tourism and local communities on the island. Tourism industry is among the most vulnerable to the globalization process. This is because tourism activities pursued by all classes, all levels and all countries. Chapter 3 reviews the assessment of the tourism infrastructure in island destination. In order to understand the experience of travelers and how they evaluate their experience after visiting a tourist destination, the system itself should be examined. To that end, the tourism system model namely the tourism functioning system has been used.

In Part B under the theme "Management of the attractions and tourist facilities of the island’ there are five chapters related, namely the management of the resort that is sustainable in Rawa Island, the environment and level of tourist facilities in Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Sabah, the environment and the development of tourism in Pangkor Island, the environment and tourism problem in Perhentian Island and facilities, eco-tourism and environmental services in Payar Island Marine Park and Redang Island.

The second theme begins with Chapter 4 examines the implementation of the sustainable management of the resort in Rawa Island. This chapter highlights three basic concepts of sustainability, namely sustainable development, sustainable tourism development and sustainable management of the resort. Chapter 5 looks at the perception of local communities to the attractions and tourist facilities in Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Sabah, involving 249 respondents. Chapter 6 examines the perceptions of international tourists to the attraction and development of tourism in Pangkor Island. Chapter 7 discusses the perception of tourists to the attractions and tourism issues in Perhentian Island. Chapter 8 debate about the perception of tourists on facilities, services and ecotourism environment but take a case study in Redang and Payar Islands Marine Parks.

Part C consists of two chapters related to the impact of tourism development on the community and the implications of coastal infrastructure development in tourism. Both cases in Tioman Island. Chapter 9 examines the implications of the development of tourism to the socio-cultural community in Tioman Island. Since the 1970s, locals have accepted tourism as an important economic resource. Chapter 10 reviews the implementation of coastal infrastructure development and its implications for tourism in Tioman Island.

Part D of this book consists of three chapters relating to the issues of international travelers and selected island. Chapter 11 discusses the push and pull factors that influence repeat visits of international tourists to Penang. Chapter 12 examines the priority in respect of sport in international tourist travel motif in Langkawi Island. Chapter 13 discusses the motive and the movement of tourists’ education among international postgraduate students of Universiti Sains Malaysia. There are four main motives for selecting Malaysia as a destination for higher education studies for international students namely motivation and incentives, promotions and offers, as well as the university’s reputation and image of the national culture.

Based on the issues and topics discussed in the book, it is clear that aspects of the development, management and tourism implications of the island is the research theme that become the choice of researchers and scholars in the country, especially those involving local communities and international tourists. The book is expected to provide benefits to interested parties in understand more about the island’s tourism development in Malaysia. This book can be used as reference materials to various parties, whether they are involved in the field of higher education such as lecturers, researchers, postgraduate students and undergraduate nor those involved in the management and implementation of policies related to the field of tourism and the island’s tourism in Malaysia. The book is also suitable for general reading and additional references to the various parties involved in the tourism industry including educators and high school students.

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