

Book Review: Tourism and Development in Southeast Asia

Claudia Dolezal, Alexander Trupp and Huong T. Bui. Tourism and Development in Southeast Asia. New York: Routledge, 2020. ISBN: 978 - 1 - 03 - 240029 - 7.221 pages.

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Abstract: *In Tourism and Development in Southeast Asia book, edited by Claudia Dolezal, Alexander Trupp, and Huong T. Bui. The editors elaborate on the compilation features authors from inside and outside the region. Four sections of the book reveal a broad perspective of tourism and development in Southeast Asia. Tourism and Development in Southeast Asia is a synthesis of research articles; theoretical and methodological reviews; and a wide selection of case studies in Southeast Asia. The majority of the articles in this book have applied qualitative approaches as a means of research instruments such as participatory methods, observation, and interviews. Except for the research in Laos, a quantitative approach has been used for the study by using Gini coefficients and quintile share analysis as analytical methods.*

Keywords: Tourism development, Southeast Asia region, tourism case studies

Tourism and Development in Southeast Asia book covers broad issues concerning tourism and development in Southeast Asia. *Four sections of the book* offer a synthesis of research articles, theoretical and methodological reviews, and a wide selection of case studies of tourism in Southeast Asia.

The first part (introduction: theoretical and methodological foundations) outlines the theoretical and methodological foundation for the research on tourism in Southeast Asia. Starting with Chapter 2, Bui and Dolezal review the evolution of development theories and paradigms in tourism. The authors affirm that modernization and neoliberalism are still embedded in tourism development in the region, with an excessive focus on FDI, and GDP growth. Considering the methodological insights, Chapter 3 outlines three examples from the authors' (Dolezal, Trupp and Leepreecha) experiences in ethnographic fieldwork. The language barrier remained a critical challenge for tourism anthropologists, which led to a loss in translation, bias, political interference, and an overreaction of the interpreter's positionality. In this chapter, Prasit Leepreecha, a researcher, from indigenous Hmong from Northern Thailand describes his research challenges, especially with the complexity and the diversity of ethnic groups and clans.

The second part of the book (tourism and development in protected areas) is a collection of case studies of tourism and development in Protected Areas (PAs). Chapter 4, Pham and Buianalyze the efficiency of a financial mechanism for PAs under the government's top - down governance. Chapter 5 and 6 discuss environmental sustainability and community empowerment, including geotourism in Langkawi, Malaysia (Jones and Syura), and collaborative conservation on small islands in Kepulauan Seribu, Indonesia (Kausar, Darmawan and Firmansyah). Both chapters address the weakness of waste management and the lack of empowerment of the community as the intervention and administration of the

private companies brought residents to encounter minor tourism benefits and environmental problems.

The multiple facets of the interdependence of tourism, development, and local communities have been addressed in the book's third part. In Chapter 7, Phommavong and Müller argue that the equality dimension of ecotourism income is not attained in pro - poor tourism in Laos, where the poorer groups are unaffordable to participate in tourism activities and the richer ones focus more on their agricultural activities, which broadened the gap between the lowest and highest income groups. Chapter 8 by Trupp reveals the indigenous groups in Thailand called "Akha" and the vital roles of souvenir street vendors play in tourism micro - entrepreneurship. The high competition with Thai vendors and dependency on inbound tourists, plus political obstacles—the recent government implementation—made the "clean - up" of street vending areas even worse for their livelihood. This issue, likewise, has influenced the local communities in the coastal area of Labuan Bajo, Indonesia when Lasso and Dahles outline the transition of local fishermen into tour boat operators. Although this new transition brings them an adequate income, rising competition among the former fishermen and the dependency on tour organizers have severely impacted the vulnerability of their livelihood. Chapter 10 by Yotsumoto carves out the two macro social development keys: the loss of authenticity of the local Ifugao community in the Philippines to a modernizing of both education and agriculture; and the influence of western colonization brought a decline in the local traditional language, local acknowledgment became more abandoned and disregarded.

In the final part (tourism, development, and governance), the authors focus on tourism development through governance mechanisms and some new trends in tourism. Chapter 11 (Kraas, Myint and Häusler) reviews the policy implementation on responsible tourism and community

involvement in CBT projects in Myanmar, conflicts within and between communities; local authorities; and investors might make future investments less attractive, and foreign investors may lead to an impediment to local communities' tourism benefits. Conversely, the innovative and creative tourism trend by a linkage of culture - agriculture - tourism in Thailand is elaborated on in Chapter 13. Berno, Wisansing and Dentice identify this novel tourism through the four concepts of "agritourism", "creative tourism", "creative agritourism", and "creative rural gastronomy". Chapter 12 by Müller, Markova and Ponnareddy provide a comparative analysis of the two different governance models in two villages' CBT projects in Cambodia. These two models contrast the distinct outcomes with and without external support from NGOs or the local government. The successful tourism development is the case of Thailand's creative agritourism in terms of elaborating the novel tourism trend through the linkage of agriculture and its unique culture with specific concepts. Likewise, Cambodia's floating village in Tonle Sap Lake revealed the strong participation of the local community without any extensive external support or financial investment.

Tourism and Development in Southeast Asia expresses precise examples of field research in several Southeast Asian countries and methodologically presents the findings in idiographic and emic approaches. Most of the articles in the book have applied qualitative approaches as a means of research instruments such as participatory methods, observation, and interviews. Except for the case of Laos, a quantitative approach has been used by Gini coefficients and quintile share analysis as analytical methods. The implementation of tourism development paradigms in Southeast Asia is illustrated chronologically, along with the fruitful contribution of terminologies to the readers. Overall, this book demonstrates the synthesizing of the history of tourism development in each country and provides a vital source for researchers and scholars in relevant fields from inside and outside the region.

Nonetheless, the book somehow does not include Brunei, Singapore, and Timor - Leste among its list of 11 Asian nations. Additionally, a lack of research on the nexus with ASEAN+3— China, Japan, and Korea—which had a crucial influence on the region's tourism movement in terms of inbound tourists. Yet would be more beneficial and comprehensive if all these missing elements were included in the future publication.

References

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