

## Panel Session 5

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### Tourism 1

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Chair: Professor KUBO Takayuki, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan

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#### Presenter 1

Mr. YUSUFZODA Farrukh, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan

Title: Potentials and challenges of tourism development in Tajikistan

Abstract: The tourism growth in the last 20 years and its contribution to the economy lifted tourism to third place as an export industry in the world and proved that it can play a vital role in the socio-economic development of nations. Further, tourism is acknowledged as an important instrument for the diversification of economies, preserving cultural and historical heritage, protecting the environment, and living standards improvement (UNWTO, 2018). Considering the above-mentioned characteristics, the Government of Tajikistan has adopted tourism development programs and strategies, which emphasize the main objectives and priorities of tourism development in the long term. However, a review of these programs revealed that tourism planning in the country does not fully illustrate the real potentials and challenges of the sector. Moreover, the matter has not been studied by anyone previously. Thus, this paper based on a survey of the main stakeholders of tourism in Tajikistan defines and describes the potentials and challenges of tourism development and will fill this gap.

#### Presenter 2

Mr. SAWADA Koki, Wakayama University, Japan

Title: Astro-Tourism is Sustainable Tourism?: Exploring a Critical Perspective on Astro-Tourism Research through a Case Study of Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture

Abstract: Astro-tourism has started to attract an increasing number of tourists internationally. Also, astro-tourism research has been gradually increasing in the tourism literature. The

researchers tend to be unreserved praise that 'astro-tourism realize sustainable tourism". But astro-tourism is truly sustainable? In this presentation, we provide a critical perspective on astro-tourism research thorough a case study of Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture. Last year, we undertook qualitative research in the island, focusing on interview survey. As a result, we found that there are some issues. On socio-economic sustainability, it is clear that all tour operators do not make a living by astro-tours alone due to the unstable weather and diverse participation of tour businesses. On socio-culture, local businesses have been prevented by malicious guides who take tour fees without hesitation if participants cannot see the stars due to cloudy. On environment, the more it becomes a tourism destination, the more accommodations, which have cause of light pollution, are rapidly increasing. Our study shows that negative effects of astro-tourism are risen to the surface. We would like to stress that uncritical praise has some risks in discussing astro-tourism. In the future, it needs to accumulate academic researches, including critical discussion.

Presenter 3

Dr. HORI Keiko, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan

Title: Health Tourism Resources and Issues: Comparative Analysis between Japan and Other Countries

Abstract: Japan has been aiming to significantly increase the number of Chinese visitors by promoting tourism in collaboration with medical and other growth areas (Prime Minister of Japan and Cabinet, 2010). Japanese people do not always perceive medical tourism positively as Japan Medical Association (2010) opposes organized medical tourism. On the other hand, from 2015 to 2017, the wellness economy grew by 6.4% annually (Global Wellness Institute, 2018). COVID-19 has made us to re-recognize importance of equity in international healthcare and consider health tourism from a global perspective. To grasp characteristic of Japanese health tourism in the international society, this study conducted a questionnaire survey in Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, which is one of the most international universities in Japan. The authors used morphological analysis and supplemented the results by literature review. High-ranking health tourism resources of respondents' home countries had strong tendency to be seen in both Japan and other countries and included both medical resources and wellness resources. Respondents selected issues related to medical dimensions as more important issues. Although there are possibilities of international cooperation in both medical dimensions and wellness dimensions, we should promote it with consideration for standard healthcare.