

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND TOURISM CARRYING CAPACITY: THE CASE ANALYSIS OF MIYAJIMA AND SETODA TOWNS IN JAPAN

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Tourism has been one of important industries in the world, especially in developing countries. Tourism has brought various benefits such as new jobs, additional income, acquisition of foreign currency and improved quality of life to tourism destinations. Above all, tourism is contributing to economic growth in developing countries.

However, with the development as the tourist destination, it is true that various abuses occur. We can indicate some social-cultural negative impact and environment destruction caused by a great deal of tourist in-flow, so-called mass tourism. Therefore, it is an important issue how we will sustain the quality of tourism destinations with considering those environment problems. That is to say, we must maintain the quality of tourism resources for present and future demand.

Then we will focus on tourism carrying capacity (TCC) that is the limit of capacity which tourism destinations can accept. This is a key concept for sustainable tourism. Environmental problems in tourism destinations are caused by exceeding TCC. Therefore, tourist destinations should definite the number of the tourists which will be accepted. If the number of tourists is not controlled well, the load of the tourist destinations increase, and its sustainability will be broken.

In this paper, we consider the factors to realize sustainable tourism by focusing on the TCC. At first, we consider theoretical aspect of the TCC related with natural-ecological tourism resources. Then, we take consideration into relation between some variables as follows, (1) tourists flow and tourists density, (2) tourists density and negative impacts against tourism resources, (3) negative impacts and the ability to renewable of tourism resources.

As a case study, we will adopt the coastal tourism resources of the Miyajima Island, small island in Seto Inland Sea, Japan, where the sustainable tourism in coastal area will be discussed in viewpoint of TCC.

Keywords: sustainable tourism, tourism carrying capacity (TCC), tourism resources