



SEEING TOURISM INVESTMENT, TOURISM GROWTH AND IMMIGRATION FROM HARM AND BENEFIT PERSPECTIVE: IMPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

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Received 18 December 2019; accepted 28 June 2020; published 30 October 2020

Abstract. There are various culprits for the increase in environmental pollution that are affecting the environment and atmosphere in one way or the other. In this context, the researcher has designed this study so that the impact of tourism growth, tourism investment and immigration on the environmental sustainability of ASEAN countries can be studied and analyzed. For this purpose, the researcher has carefully collected the authentic data about the aforementioned aspects of the study from the authentic databases such as World Bank Development Indicators and Global Economy. The data was collected for consecutive 30 years from the ASEAN countries. After collecting data, the researcher has applied panel unit root test, panel cointegration test, coefficient estimation test and panel Granger Casualty test for analysis purpose. The results have indicated that all the independent variables i.e. tourism investment, tourism growth, immigration have significant impact on environmental sustainability. Moreover, these variables are also found to have the causal relationships among each other either unidirectional or bidirectional. The major implication of this study is that it will guide the tourism industries and immigration departments of the countries to apply careful practices so that the environment is not disturbed due to environmental pollution and the environmental sustainability is not disturbed.

Keywords: Tourism Growth, Tourism Investment; Immigration; Environmental Sustainability; ASEAN Countries; Panel

Reference to this paper should be made as follows: Normelani, E., Kartika, N.Y., Bachri, A.A. (2020). Seeing tourism investment, tourism growth and immigration from harm and benefit perspective: implications for environmental sustainability in ASEAN countries. *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues*, 10(Oct), 151-162. [http://doi.org/10.9770/jssi.2020.10.Oct\(11\)](http://doi.org/10.9770/jssi.2020.10.Oct(11))

Jel Codes: O10, O20, O30

1 Introduction

Tourism industry is a strategic driver of the economy of the countries of the world (Islam & Nugroho, 2019; Öztürk, Ihtiyar, & Aras, 2019; Singgalen, Sasongko, & Wiloso, 2019; Dunets, Vakhrushev, Sukhova, Sokolov, Utkina, & Shichiyakh, 2019; Chkalova, Efremova, Lezhnin, Polukhina, & Sheresheva, 2019; Gavurova, Suhanyi, & , Rigelsky, 2020), which has been contributed to 10.2 % of the world GDP (WTTC, 2017) and has created more than 290 million jobs around the world (Travel, 2017), mainly leading to the region's development and growth (Kongbuamai, Bui, Yousaf, & Liu, 2020; Thang, 2019) as shown in the following table. Based on the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-2015, the region has put forward another strategic plan for 2016 – 2025, in which the goal is to strive for increased contribution to the region's economic growth through developing the tourism sector. The plan demands that a strategic approach is required to strengthen these investments through quality, community participation, marketing, HR development, safety and security to render the region emerging as a sustainable tourism destination (Öztürk et al., 2019; Secretariat, 2015). (See Table 1)