

Introduction

In the era of globalization, the economic contribution of the tourism, hospitality and leisure industry to the world's GDP is significant. Tourism represents one of the main sources of income for many countries; tourism creates jobs, enhances exports and contributes to the economic welfare of a host country. Although the contribution of tourism, hospitality and the leisure industry in the era of globalization has been broadly recognized, there are also numerous challenges that this industry faces.

Higher Learning Research Communications is publishing this special issue with articles focusing particularly on the development of tourism, hospitality and leisure in the globalized world. The issue consists of a selection of 4 papers from authors that contribute to the understanding of recent developments in this industry, as well as strengths and weaknesses, threats and opportunities for the tourism, hospitality and leisure industry in the globalized world.

"Challenges and Opportunities of the World Tourism from the view Point of Ecotourism", by Fredy González Fonseca, analyses the potential options of ecotourism as a key driver of sustainable economic development for local communities. Despite the benefits this sector presents to local communities in Mexico, the author argues that there is non-existent support from the national or local governments and no equitable tourism legislation protecting potential natural resources, which could be used for future ecotourism activities.

On "Economic Competition, Sustainability and Survival of the Dodo: The Eastern Island Case and the Tragedy of the Common Effects", Pedro Moreira examines the results of a series of decision games obtained under a quasi-experimental design. Behavioral patterns were analyzed and extrapolated to explore the terminal effects of competition trends on the survival and economic viability of organizations and travel destinations in restricted environments.

Marina Mattera & Alberto Moreno Melgarejo write on the "Strategic Implications of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hotel Industry: a comparative research between NH Hotels and Meliá Hotels International". The study outlines the best practices of two leading Spanish hotel corporations: NH Hotels and Meliá Hotels International. By identifying actions undertaken by the most important firms of the sector, these hotels can serve as an exemplar and be replicated by other firms. The authors note that a firm can enhance their positive impact on their operating environment by increasing sustainability practices, improving understanding of the triple bottom line and minimizing negative social as well as environmental footprints.

Finally, "Lifestyle entrepreneurs: Insights into Blackpool's small hotel sector", by William Rowson and Conrad Lashley, examines branded chains that dominate sections of commercial hospitality provision. The study acknowledges that those managing small accommodation

properties, in the form of guest houses and small hotels, have more lifestyle ambitions for their commercial operation rather than classical entrepreneurial motives.

We would like to thank Carmen M. Mendez for all her support during the development process of this issue and also Higher Learning Research Communications for giving us this opportunity to publish the special issue. We thank all the reviewers for their assistance and support in the review process of the papers for this special issue.

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