

EDITORIAL

Tourism, as the world's fastest growing industry, represents almost 10% of the world's GDP and 7% of the world's exports (30% total share, in the services exports). In 2017, international tourism generated US\$ 1.6 trillion in export earnings and by 2030, international tourist arrivals are expected to reach 1.8 billion (UNWTO, 2018). These facts demonstrate the significant role tourism plays to the development of several nations. With the growth of emerging destinations, specifically in Asia, tourism trends and issues must be examined. Asia-Pacific region, the world's second biggest tourism market by arrivals (after Europe), has grown +6% in 2017 due to solid intraregional demand, growing purchasing power (in emerging economies), increased air connectivity, more affordable travel and enhanced visa facilitation (UNWTO Tourism Highlights, 2018). Amidst such immense opportunities as well as future challenges, tourism research should remain progressive; and best practices must be shared among stakeholders to further enhance our systems and methods, while supporting the achievement of key Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 UN Agenda. Tourism research formulates innovative ideas and creates solutions to our personal and socio-economic problems, leading to the development of territories and transformation of our societies.

This Journal of Tourism and Development (Revista Turismo & Desenvolvimento) Special Edition highlights some emerging tourism trends and issues in Asia. This first issue dedicated to Asia, affirmed University of Aveiro's reputation as a world-class higher education institution and as a Center of Excellence in Tourism (rated by the Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education - A3ES Portugal), in expanding its presence to more international territories, and contribute through research networking and publications - in this case, with a range of diverse studies in an Asian setting.

Now on its 15th year, the Journal of Tourism and Development was the first journal founded in Portugal specifically aimed for tourism. It has grown in becoming an international journal that reflects perspectives of authors from several countries. This Asia Edition presents works from China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Kazakhstan and Iran - ranging from a variety of topics related to impacts of dark tourism, turtle conservation management, restaurant management skills and functions, tourism development strategies and sports tourism. These articles provide invaluable insights into the studied issues and problems, attesting to the multi-faceted nature of tourism. It is hoped that these articles will be valuable to the readers and stimulate further tourism research in multiple settings.

Our sincerest thanks and warmest appreciation to the Editorial Board members and reviewers, for their support, commitment and contribution in elevating the standards of publication and advancing the quality of tourism research.

ROGELIO POLICARPIO FLORES, JR.

Scientific Fellow – Governance, Competitiveness & Public Policies (GOVCOPP) Research Unit/ Dept.
of Economics, Management, Industrial Engineering & Tourism (DEGEIT)
Guest Editor - Revista Turismo e Desenvolvimento (Asia Edition) [rogeliojr@ua.pt]