

## Editorial Note

Tourism, along with labor migration, has become a crucial research theme in the contemporary globalized world. Since tourism and labor migration are comprehensive human phenomena, a number of studies have been conducted in relation to diverse domains such as economics, business management, sociology, cultural anthropology and geography. International tourism seeks to generate 'tourism spaces' and 'interfaces between foreign tourists, local people and foreign workers' engaged in tourism industry — all having different cultural backgrounds and values. Therefore, it is a worthy field to research in the area of humanities and human sciences.

The significance of international tourism, as indicated above, prompted the establishment of two research project — “Tourism and Poverty” and “Globalization and Tourism in Asia” — at the Institute of Humanities, Human and Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University, in the last four years. These projects have involved the participation of fieldworkers from the sphere of tourism, Ritsumeikan and the other universities and then have propelled interdisciplinary and comprehensive studies in this field. The fruits of their studies have had various outcomes.

First, two international meetings themed “The Socially Deprived and Self-reliance through Tourism” and “Production of Tourism Space and Interface between Local People, Foreign Tourists and Foreign Workers: Comparative Studies on Asian Countries” were organized on the Kinugasa Campus, Ritusmeikan University, in November 2008 and November 2009, respectively. Second, many articles written by project members appeared in volumes 89, 91, and 93 of the Journal of Ritsumeikan Humanities, Human and Social Sciences: these articles were compiled into two final reports and submitted to the Ministry of Education, Cultures, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan in March 2009. Third, two books on tourism edited by Professors Eguchi Nobukiyo and Fujimakil Masami, who are leaders of both research projects above.

This journal explores the current trends in and the challenges faced by tourism in Asia. Although almost all of contributors to the journal are members of the research groups, contributions have also been received by Prof. Yahaya Ibrahim (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu) and En. Abudul Rashid Abudul Razzaq (Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia), Dr. Wang Chengyun and Ms. Li Nana (Shanghai Normal University), Dr. Han Jiho (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University) and Dr. Ishizaki Yoshiyuki (Ritsumeikan University). We would like to use this platform to express our appreciation to them.

These papers are basically divided into two groups. The first group of four full papers submitted by speakers who participated in the workshop entitled “Production of Tourism Space and Interface between Local People, Foreign Tourists and Foreign Workers:

Comparative Studies on Asian Countries,” which was held at Ritsumeikan University’s Kinugasa Campus on November 7, 2009. The second group of papers included individual discussions on tourism in China, Indonesia and Japan. This journal has been unable to completely cover the trends, situations, and issues pertaining tourism [in] Asia. However, we hope that this journal will contribute to the advancement of tourism studies in Asia.

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