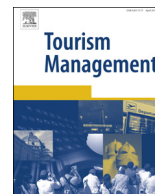




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Tourism Management

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/tourman

Book Review

Handbook of Tourism Economics: Analysis, New Applications and Case Studies, Edited C.A. Tisdell (Ed.). World Scientific, Singapore (2013). (Hbk) ISBN: 978981432707 7, £150

As the editor points out in the preface, Tourism Economics has 'established itself as distinct branch of knowledge' which has led to a growing number of texts on the subject. The aim of this book, according to the editor, is to provide a comprehensive and up to date overview of tourism economics including, new methods, new areas of research and new conceptual frameworks to the audience in a comprehensive and easily accessible manner.

The book is made up of 39 chapters organised in 9 sections. While it is not surprising that the literature on tourism demand, economic contribution and impact of tourism and environmental issues constitute the bulk of this book, as these are the most widely researched areas of tourism economics, this volume nevertheless offers sufficient space to other aspects of economic research in tourism, which are less well known. This is one of the strengths of the book. Section IV discusses niche and emerging markets which have not received much prominence. By providing an overview of these markets, the section opens up new potential avenues for research. For example, as the cost of health care in developed countries continue to soar, medical tourism can be expect to boom. Chapter 13 offers a stimulating discussion of the key issues involved in medical tourism. Another important niche market considered is educational tourism. Education in itself is not a tourism activity, but it gives a boost to VFR travel. Chapter 14 analyses this market from an Australian perspective but the chapter has a wider appeal as education remains a significant export industry for many developed countries. Chapters 12 and 15 look at the supply side of tourism activities and provide insightful discussions on the development of visitors attraction and amusement parks.

Chapter 6, which is fairly thought provoking, talks about domestic violence and its effect on domestic tourism.

Another interesting aspect of the book is that it includes a number of case studies from a wide range of destinations. While Chapters 36, 38, 39 provide discussion of environmental issues in Australia, Japan, and Egypt, Chapter 33 offers a global perspective on environmental and conversation issues and their implications for tourism policy. The hotel industry of China is analysed in Chapter 8 and tourism development in India and Fiji are the themes of Chapter 30 and 32 respectively. Overall this is a quite interesting book but it would have benefitted from the omission of chapters which do not contribute to our knowledge of Tourism Economics. It is surprising that a book whose title includes the phrase 'New Applications' should contain chapters which neither offer a new perspective on issues that have already received sufficient attention in the literature nor apply commonly used techniques to more topical matters. As such a few chapters are redundant. A review of estimation technique on tourism demand models which only focuses on AIDS models and ignores other sophisticated tools such as panel data analysis, time varying parameter models and so on, is neither up to date nor comprehensive. Sections VI, VII and VIII could have been combined. Chapters which overlap with one another need to be shortened to include materials on topics such as economic crisis and slow down, rising cost of fuel, political economics of tourism, which are a few of the issues that the industry is currently facing.

Neelu Seetaram

School of Tourism, Bournemouth University, UK
E-mail address: nseetaram@bournemouth.ac.uk.