**Possibility of Astronomical Phenomena to be Used to Support Tourism Industry**

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ABSTRACT

Several astronomical events in the past has shown the potential to attract tourist. This motivate some astronomers and tourism activist to make tourism related events during the happening of an interesting astronomical phenomenon. The most attractive astronomical phenomena for tourist are solar eclipse. It was proven during the total solar eclipse March 9, 2016 and other similar events. Other phenomenon such as lunar eclipse, meteor shower, Mars Opposition have also some potential to be exploited for holding an event to attract tourist. Some geoparks have tried to make sky watching events, for example Geopark Belitung hold super blue blood moon event in January 31, 2018 and Mars opposition watching on July 21, 2018. It successfully drew people attention, but need more effort and creativities to make them more attractive and marketable events. Other cultural heritages which contain astronomical knowledge, such as Borobudur Temple, are also prospective to be developed to be astro-tourism destinations. In the future, astro-tourism permanent facilities may be developed, for example, sky watching facilities for amateur in Dark Sky National Park, near the Mount Timau National Observatory in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province.

*Keywords: Astro-tourism, Astronomical Phenomena*

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