

Record of Doctoral Dissertation Screening

Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies

*If possible please fill out this form in both English and Japanese.

Name/ DOB / Nationality	WALKER, Therez Bernanta	1981/5/24	Antigua and Barbuda
Last Institution Attended	March, 2017 Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Doctoral Program Completed		
Degree Type	Doctor of Philosophy in Asia Pacific Studies	Date of Award	March 31, 2017
Requirements for Degree Conferral	Persons who comply to the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Degree Regulations Article 13 Section 1	Degree Regulation Article 4 Section 1	
Title of Dissertation (Eng./Jap.)	Contributions to sustainable tourism development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS): The Cittaslow approach for Antigua and Barbuda 小島嶼開発途上国における持続可能な観光開発への貢献：アンティグア・バーブーダのためのチッタスロー・アプローチ		
Examiners (Affiliation)	(Supervisor) 1. LEE Timothy		2. COOPER Malcolm
	3. XIE, Philip Feifan (Macau University of Science and Technology)		4. -
Summary of Dissertation Contents	<p>This thesis is composed of eight chapters and appendices.</p> <p>Chapter 1 mainly introduces the aims and objectives of the thesis, the overall background and current situation of tourism development in the Caribbean islands, the significant contribution of the thesis, and main structure of the thesis</p> <p>Chapter 2 introduces the specific characteristics, challenges and opportunities of SIDS with special emphasis on the Caribbean group of SIDS and Antigua and Barbuda as it relates to both tourism development and sustainability. Within this chapter, the sustainable development movement, its evolution and relation to SIDS are discussed to highlight historical and contemporary issues that are being faced by SIDS in the Caribbean, the AIMS (the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and South China Sea) and the Pacific regions.</p> <p>Chapter 3 explores the literature associated with the Cittaslow philosophy and how its underlying philosophy relates to sustainability for small local economies. The chapter begins by introducing the philosophy that guides the Cittaslow movement and also looks at its history and close relation to the Slow Food movement, which effectively enhances visibility through food tourism. The chapter ends with applying this literature to the situation of SIDS and examines theoretical and empirical evidence that supports various aspects of sustainable tourism development.</p> <p>Chapter 4 provides an analysis into the Cittaslow approach and how the initiative and its underlying philosophy can be seen as an opportunity to help in building sustainable futures for those who need it the most. The chapter highlights the realization that the Cittaslow initiative encourages inclusive, increasing solutions to difficult problems that are being face by SIDS. By focusing on the impact analysis for SIDS, this chapter investigates how progressive approaches to development ultimately lead to socially desirable outcomes.</p> <p>The research methodology in the study is explained and reviewed in Chapter 5. This chapter identifies the overall research design, philosophy, and methodological approaches including the case studies and limitations. The chapter outlines the details for the mixed method used in this study such as the expert in-depth interviews and case study questionnaires that formed the basis for the actual field research. This chapter also describes why the mixed method research process was selected for this research and presents the study objectives, data and case study that were implemented for the research.</p>		

	<p>Chapter 6 provides the results of the expert interview, as well as questionnaires. This chapter ultimately presents a comprehensive analysis of the research question based on real data application. The expert interviews are designed mainly for the findings of the research question and to authenticate and clarify the sustainable tourism development agenda in Antigua and Barbuda. Both the expert interviews and the case study analysis verify the necessary process by analyzing three areas being the niche branding opportunity, additional linkages with the agriculture industry, the satisfaction of policy, and stakeholder cooperation. The questionnaires were designed to obtain feedback on the prospective realization in regards to demand.</p> <p>Chapter 7 discusses the general findings of the study and incorporates an analysis of the main and supplementary case study. The supplementary case study helps to identify important discoveries based on an actual Cittàslow destination (Kesennuma) in Japan. The chapter also rationalizes the impact of the Cittàslow philosophy on this community as well as potential obstacles and challenges experienced with the implementation of the Cittàslow initiative. Further analysis into this case study provides additional awareness in answering the research question.</p> <p>Chapter 8 outlines a concluding overview of the study as well as presenting the implications for further research. This concluding chapter deliberates on the conclusions from the findings related to the research questions. It reviews the findings of the research question and the initial aims behind the study. Additionally, the chapter includes the limitations of the study and offers recommendations.</p>
<p>Summary of Dissertation Screening Results</p>	<p>The student's thesis owns enough uniqueness and distinctiveness in both theoretic and managerial perspectives.</p> <p>The dissertation underwent a substantial screening process. The original manuscript was reviewed by the student's supervisor (LEE, Timothy), an internal examiner (COOPER, Malcolm), and an external examiner (XIE, Philip). All three examiners suggested that the student revise and resubmit the dissertation based on their comments. A major rewrite of the dissertation was therefore recommended.</p> <p>A second round of screening by the same examiners was conducted after the revised dissertation was submitted. Based on the examiners' positive reviews and additional comments, an oral defense was subsequently held.</p> <p>After the oral examination, the examiners unanimously recommended that the dissertation be passed, and for the student to be awarded a Ph.D.</p> <p>The current state of the dissertation meets the overall standards of a doctoral dissertation. To further improve the dissertation, the examiners suggested that the study's Conclusions should suggest further research in the area of Slow City development in the field of tourism.</p>
<p>Summary of Examination Results or confirmation of Academic Skills</p>	<p>The student complies with the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Degree Regulations Article 13 Section 1.</p> <p>The results of final examinations (including dissertation screening and other relevant final examinations related to this topic) were included.</p> <p>The graduating student has made any noteworthy academic contributions by presenting the paper in three of domestic and international academic conferences and submitted manuscripts based on the PhD thesis to domestic and international peer-review journals aiming at publishing.</p>