Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation

A Study on the Competitiveness of Indonesian Historical Post-Mining Cities as Tourist Destinations

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Regenerating small-sized mining cities after the mine has closed is a challenging task facing many former mining communities all across the globe. During the mining period, these cities tend to become a source of prosperity by providing jobs, establishing public service infrastructures, and triggering regional development within the country. However, once the operator terminates the mine, whether due to resource depletion or uneconomical production, the city faces an inherited problem encompassing economic incapability, social structure change, and environmental degradation.

Transforming mining heritage values for tourism applications has become a prevalent choice for many small-sized post-mining cities. Therefore, this study set three objectives. The first objective of this study was to measure the attractiveness and competitiveness of post-mining cities as tourist destinations. The second objective was to analyze the role of post-mining communities in the regeneration of post-mining cities as tourist destinations. The third objective is the study's primary objective, developing a competitiveness model of mining heritage tourism for small-sized post-mining cities.

Regarding attractiveness and competitiveness, this study measured tourism resources attractiveness from the perspective of the visitors. The results showed that natural beauty is the most appealing resource for prospective visitors. The attractiveness of mining heritage resources is also highly correlated with the preservation and revitalization of the heritage. Furthermore, the attractiveness of natural beauty and mining heritage resource, outweighs the attractiveness of created resources and supporting resources. However, the results indicate only a moderate correlation between mining heritage resources and regional competitiveness; personal safety, hospitality, and accessibility have more impact on regional competitiveness.

In-depth interviews with city stakeholders were taken to address the second objective of the study. It found that the post-mining community plays an important role in the development of mining heritage tourism, particularly in the preservation of tangible and intangible mining heritage, empowerment of the community members, social-economic development through the commodification of the heritage, and quality of visitor experience. The loyalty level of community members subsequently determines their role magnitude. This study indicates that native or migrant residence status and family background significantly contribute to the loyalty level of post-mining community members.

The last objective of the study was to develop a specific destination competitiveness model of post-mining cities in tourism. The proposed model emphasizes three aspects of the urban policy approach in former mining cities: 1) sustainability in the transformation process, 2) destination policy, planning, and development, and 3) destination management. A quantitative research approach was used to empirically measure the influence of these constructs in the city's competitiveness in tourism. The model was examined in the setting of Indonesian post-mining cities. The results indicate that sustainable transformation significantly contributes to the competitiveness level of post-mining cities in tourism. The results also suggest that place attachment and innovative job creation for post-mining societies contribute to sustainability in the post-mining period.

These research findings should help to open a new discussion in the urban regeneration policy and policy science communities regarding how post-mining cities can successfully promote mining heritage tourism as an economic development base in the post-mining period.

Keywords: Resources attractiveness; Mining heritage tourism; Sustainable transformation; Destination Competitiveness Model (DCM).