

From Founding Editor-in-Chief

Disasters such as earthquakes or heavy rain occur on a global scale. They possibly depend on the influence of global warming, but the theory is not sure. In Japan, disasters such as heavy snowfall, violent heat in addition to heavy rain and earthquakes occurred constantly in 2018, and they have a great influence on the tourism industry. In fact, the number of foreign tourists decreased in September 2018 compared to the same month of the previous year. New policies are necessary to construct a safe and secure environment for tourism. Constructing the environment would receive much attention from the world. It is required that industrial and academic worlds strongly cooperate and discuss multilaterally on a new tourism policy. First of all, a system which could collect disaster information and offer necessary information has to be provided. Wisdom and suggestions are expected from both worlds.

This journal was published to aim at the promotion of Asia tourism mainly in the academic world in 2016 and three years have passed since the first publication. A Korean branch was established last year. Many papers have been contributed to this journal and it has come to be published stably. It has been evaluating not only in academic but also in industry fields, and is deriving the tourism industry and community development. It is expected that this journal will lead the academic and industrial worlds and contribute to both fields.

In Japan, the inbounds are increasing rapidly and there are labor shortages, differential wages and a heavy work load in the industry. There are some negative images in the tourism industry. It is strongly expected that innovation will be created by introducing AI and IoT into the industry and it will solve those issues. Productivity in Japan belongs to the lowest class in advanced countries. Improving productivity is an important issue and high quality hospitality should be provided to tourists.

This journal has been published by the International Society for Tourism Research. The society is wishing to provide widely a place of communication of people involved in the tourism industry, and contribute to tourism innovation of the Asian region. Consequently, the society will positively hold meetings, conferences and seminars. The society expects collaborations with universities and academic institutes, and wishes to apply for holding of events due to those institutes. The society is thinking to derive the way of the next-generation of tourism industry with the institutes and contribute to Asian tourism exchange.

The society is also performing publishing business on tourism and the following book will be published next spring, *Sustainable Tourism for Rural Revitalization in Japan*. Please contact with Dr. Ikeda (publishing director) if you would like to publish your research results. The publication will steer regional companies and local inhabitants. Finally, it will steer the nation.

The society is praying for all of your success in the future. Thank you for your future support as well.

Takashi Oyabu
Founding Editor-in-Chief