Preface

Human logistics and tourism visible from trips to Central and South Africa

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From 10th to 27th February 2019, I traveled to 14 countries in Central and South Africa. I made all arrangements with confidence by making use of Google Flights for aviation reservations, Booking.com for accommodation arrangements and Viator for local tours. Although there were 23 times to board an aircraft, I became used to it, so I never made a reservation mistake or change. Since airlines, Booking.com and Viator also provide information, such as electronic check-in, large failures are no longer occurring. As a result, the number of African countries I have visited has become 24 countries. However, this is still less than half of the total number of countries.

Even so, I am surprised by the high air fares in Africa, and I am surprised by the high cost of tax. I was also bothered by my visa acquisition. The reason why the number of foreign visitors to Japan increased sharply was that the travelers were able to realize that the sense of inexpensiveness of air fares and the abolition of visas etc. were great.

When I traveled in ASEAN countries at that time, the infrastructure development was delayed and I was surprised by traffic congestion. In addition, sanitary conditions were not good, and I used to care about meals. But the cities and people in the cities were lively. In the future, LCC will be introduced to African countries, and ordinary people will be going for overseas trips as well.

The difference in the presence of Japanese, Chinese and Korean people in Central and South Africa was also recognized. When I was walking down the street, I was greeted with "Nihao" and in Chinese without exception. However, I was invited to speak in Japanese when I showed my passport at the immigration. I did not see any Japanese language even though I could see Chinese on display. At the airport, I also saw an indication that it was built with the help of the Chinese government.

In the Namib Desert, I participated in the local tour of 2 nights-3 days. In the total of 13 people, I was the oldest member. Young people from Singapore, Korea, and Hong Kong etc. were also participating. In the area, I saw many Korean tourists as there are tour companies dedicated to Koreans. When I introduced myself as "Shuichi" it is a difficult name to pronounce

and people said "sushi." As everyone knows sushi, the participants soon learned my name. It may even be more famous than Toyota. On the television, Dragon Ball and Pokemon animation were also on air. I realized that the fact that inbound (simultaneous outbound) is exciting as a phenomenon occurring all over the world.

If I summarize the impression of my travel to Africa easily, I realized that I feel that the differences in the world are getting smaller and smaller. Even here, daily life and extraordinary life were connecting. It also made it easy to understand that environmental problems are occurring on a global scale. These are not problems that can be solved by the simple word of ecotourism.

Figure 1: Waste on the coast of Comoros

I will post two pictures. One is a mountain of plastic garbage on Comoros Island. Another is of vehicle traces left in the Namib Desert. Comoros Island is not a tourist spot but dumps of plastic garbage in the sea are increasing. It is affected by daily life on a global scale. Pet bottles confiscated at each airport in the world may be one cause. The Namib Desert has not changed for hundreds of millions of years. It is understood that the traces of cars that passed through when there are no regulations remain in the future forever.

Tourism information theory began with information dissemination theory on tourism resources. However, due to the quan-

Figure 2: Car tire tracks in the Namib desert

titative constraints of information, the theory of information provision was mainly provided by public entities. Future tourism information theory is expected to evolve into the prediction theory of tourist behavior utilizing the huge amount of information collected. However, due to the limit of the concept of "immature tourism," it is causing integration theory to science as a concept of human logistics.

Even on this trip, I recorded over 1,000 photos and videos with smartphones. All of these are automatically saved in Google Photo. It will also be used as a resource of deep learning technology for Google to develop in the future. Because it was my first time to experience this land, I always used Google Map.

Figure 3: Mobile phone screen showing the road near Victoria Falls, obtained using Google Map

This picture is of a mobile phone screen showing the road near Victoria Falls, obtained using Google Map. You can also see where you are with GPS. You will also know the time you

need for walking. Of course, you can also understand the situation for traveling by car. You can also see when using Uber or a bus. This will evolve further in the future.

I try to save the screen by using the screen shot function. It is convenient to organize later. I am concerned about communication charges. In recent years, even at NTT docomo, there is an unlimited use fee system of about 1000 yen a day, so it will be cheaper.

Advances in wearable devices will provide scientific data for tourism research and tourism projects in large quantities. A wearable device equipped with position information and visualizing reactions in the brain, for example, must grasp the details of the behavior of tourists in real time and produce a database. Even now, technology is evolving to be able to grasp what part of Sensoji Temple the visitor's line of sight is directed at, rather than just the vague Asakusa Temple. Moreover, it will be possible to grasp in conjunction with tourist's brain reaction data (degree of liking etc.). This big data will evolve to enable clinical correspondence to tourism subjects of which individuals are interested.

The role of a guide also changes greatly. For tourists who are interested in birds, commentaries on the birds that are currently being seen will be made. Feedback of visitor response data in the brain can also be technically enabled, and the behavior of tourists can be predicted by the big data analysis. The tourism resource theory itself, which was the center of tourism studies, ceases to end, and the brain reaction that causes tourist behavior is the center of research. Then, there is no need to stick to tourists, and it will be necessary to recombine tourism research as a whole into human logistics research.

While thinking about such things, I enjoyed traveling in Central and South Africa.

About the author

Shuichi Teramae Ph.D. is a leading member of the Japanese association of tourism studies. He has work experience as an expert in tourism policy. Currently, he is the head of the Human Logistics & Tourism Laboratory. In the past, he has served as Director of Information Administration, Deputy Director of Meteorological Agency etc. at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and has served as Director of the Japan Tourism Association, Professor of Takasaki Economic University, and Mayor of Kaga. He has a doctorate in tourism from Rikkyo University. (https://www.jinryu.jp/)