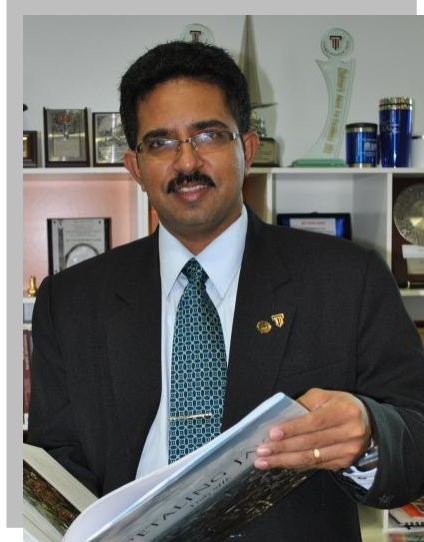


Dr. Vikneswaran Nair

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Programme Leader for the Responsible Rural Tourism Network



Biography

Dr. Vic Nair is currently the Programme Leader for the Responsible Rural Tourism Network based at Taylor's University, Malaysia and also an Associate Professor at the School of Hospitality, Tourism & Culinary Arts of the University. In addition to that he was also the former Director for Research & Development at Taylor's University, Director of the Taylor's-Toulouse University Centre Research Group and the Associate Director of Taylor's Centre for Research & Innovation in Tourism (CRiT) that focuses on research in hospitality, tourism and gastronomy.

He has more than 15 years' experience in the field of sustainable tourism and environmental management. A seasoned and award winning researcher and consultant with extensive publications he was honoured as the Outstanding Young Malaysian of the Year Award in 2006 and 2009. In 2007, he was elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Educational Institution (CHRIE) Federation and is currently serving in the International CHRIE Sub-Committee. He was also the Secretary and the Executive Committee Member of the Tourism Educators Association of Malaysia for the past 8 years. His latest accolade is when he was awarded a RM9million (US\$3million) national research grant from the Ministry of Higher Education's Long Term Research Grant Scheme for the project, "Multidimensional Responsible Rural Tourism Capacity Framework for Sustainable Tourism".

Topic

“Responsible Tourism”

Synopsis

Tourism is the world's largest industry. Nonetheless, the tourism industry's growth through-out the years has created an increasing amount of stress economically, socially and environmentally. With this great capacity for generating wealth from the tourism resources comes great responsibility. Mass tourism has resulted in numerous problems around the world - local community deprived of tourist revenue; over development resulting in water shortages for the local community; damage of coral reefs, beaches, wildlife and rainforests; sexual abuse of women and children; and erosion of local culture. Hence, it is of utmost importance that all stakeholders in the tourism chain are aware of what responsible tourism is all about and how their actions can erode the tourism industry socially, economically and environmentally. Tourism operations must be managed in such a way that they preserve natural habitats, wildlife and local culture so that they can continue to deliver the benefits for years to come. Tourism operations must provide quality travel experience that promotes conservation of the natural environment and offer opportunities and benefits for local communities. Thus, this presentation would highlight why responsible tourism is critical – especially in destinations where the environment and its people are its core products. The paper will also outline some of the major indicators that can be adopted by countries in Southeast Asia to promote the concept of responsible tourism.

Keywords: responsible tourism, mass tourism, ecotourism, community based tourism