Research Report

Forum: General Assembly Second

Issue: Combating the negative effects of tourism on developing countries

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Personal Introduction

Vincent Roumimper

Dear delegates, before you start reading any further I thought it would be fitting to introduce myself first. My name is Vincent and I am the co-chair of the GA2 during Calsmun 2018. Together with Melissa Kikkert (main-chair), I will be leading your debates during this event. I am 16-years old and I'm attending 5VWO at the Alfrink College in Zoetermeer (The Netherlands). I have gained experience as a delegate and a MUN-Director, though this will be my very first time chairing! Obviously I love MUNs and I love debating, though what a find more important and enjoyable is to meet new people and try out new things. I am a little bit of an explorer myself; having done voluntary work in Cambodia when I was only 15-years old. Furthermore I like to play tennis or football (soccer for Americans), play video games and just generally hang out with friends. I am also a big music lover but have not yet picked up an instrument :(. Being a first time chair, I am eager to grow and learn. So during the conference come say hi to me! You can always come up to me to start a conversation; If you have any questions or if you just want to talk to me, be it a question about your issue or even a weird story about your goldfish :).

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General Assembly Second

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, is chaired by His Excellency Mr. SVEN JÜRGENSON of Estonia. During this session, it will deal with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions; financing for development; sustainable development; human settlements; globalization and interdependence; eradication of poverty; operational activities for development; agriculture development, food security and nutrition; information and communications technologies for development; and towards global partnerships.

The Second Committee will also consider issues relating to groups of countries in special situations. It will also consider the item on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

Issue: Combating the negative effects of tourism on developing countries

Introduction

The business of providing services such as transport, places to stay, or entertainment for people who are on holiday is also known as tourism. Tourism is one of the strongest drivers of world trade and prosperity, especially in developing countries. And while it does bring many economic and social benefits, it also is affiliated with negative effects. In 2016, the Thai government had to close down 3 popular Islands on the coast of Phuket because they had been badly affected by tourist. This is just one example of an increasing amount of cases in the past decade where sadly the only solution to the situation was to halt the touristic sector entirely. Obviously, one needs to find a middle path between these two extremes. We cannot control or prevent the consequence of tourism, but we need to plan and manage to minimize the negative impacts and encourage the positives effects of Tourism. Meaning that the only way to sustain the touristic sector is when the negative effects and harms of the environment do not outweigh the financial benefits that derive from Tourism itself. Only in that way, we could attack the problem of Tourism in developing countries.
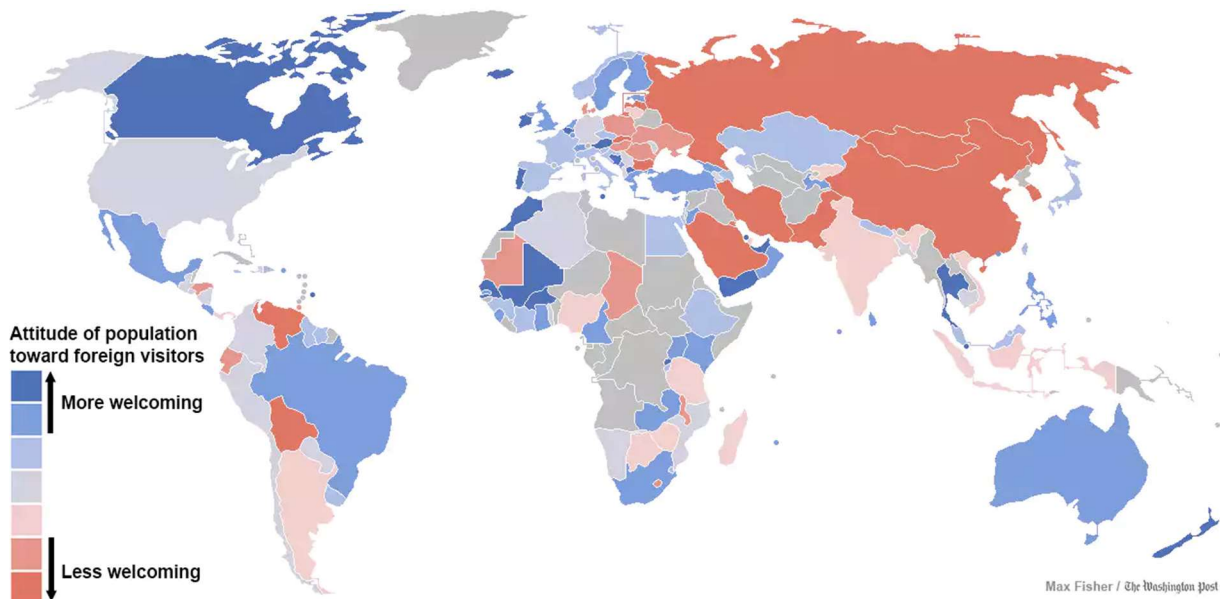
General Overview

For a Touristic sector to operate at its optimal conditions a country needs a good infrastructure: roads, airports and hotels all need to be built, yet are truly expensive investments. Most of the time these costs are covered by the government of the country who will fund their investments with tax revenues obtained from the citizens. Furthermore the sector depends on the demand of the tourist, meaning that jobs are often only seasonal and poorly paid, yet tourism can push up local property prices and the costs goods and services which is really unfavourable for the local community. The local community furthermore does not benefit from all the revenues generated by tourism as most money goes to the powerful foreign companies such as Hotel Chains. Tourist attractions can be badly affected by sudden unexpected events such as Terrorism, an economic recession or natural disasters.

A large amount of visitors can have a detrimental effect on the living conditions of the local population. Congestion and crowding, an increase in crime levels, alcohol/drugs problems and prostitution all are stimulated by the touristic sector. In order to make way for new roads and other infrastructure inhabitants are often displaced from their land. This is a conflict that could even infringe on Human Rights. As a cause of Tourism, Westernization also heavily impacts the developing countries, which could lead to a loss of culture and loss of identity of the country.

Lastly tourism threatens the cultural and natural resources of a country. Examples of these are: Temples, Coral Reefs and Beaches. An increase in traffic also leads to

increase in air and noise pollutions. Furthermore great areas of natural scenery such as rainforests are cut down to make way for touristic-funded Infrastructure. In exotic areas this could lead to the extinction of endangered plants and animals.

Attitude of population toward foreign visitors

More welcoming

Less welcoming

Max Fisher / The Washington Post

Previous attempts to solve this issue

The World Trade Organization (UNWTO) has presented plans to get local communities more involved with tourism. This increases the competition of tourism by offering a range of varying tourism products that account for the needs of different tourists – Communities invested in small local touristic facilities that offer a local staying for the adventurous tourists. In this way, the locals can challenge the international companies on a small scale and encourage local entrepreneurship.

Cultural Organisations have been set up in order to encourage locals to preserve their cultural habits. Cultural phenomena such as festivals, handicrafts and other art are sponsored, as they otherwise would have waned. Furthermore a better cultural understanding for the tourists could raise awareness for third world problems such as poverty and child labour. It is to note that these organisations are mostly on a small scale and only encourage local projects.

UNESCO has introduced the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme. A program where UNESCO uses a different approach where planning for tourism and heritage management is integrated at destination level, the natural and cultural assets are valued and protected, and appropriated Tourism developed.

Possible solutions:

When it comes to attacking this problem, there are 2 main foundations of the problem countries have to take in consideration when looking at the solutions for the problem of tourism in developing countries:

1. The gap between the local community and the elite international business companies is increasing and needs to be handled before the gap will be unbridgeable.
2. Natural scenery is harmed which could lead to the extinction of certain endangered animals and plants.

Possible solutions could therefore include:

- Introduce a minimal wage for tourist-funded jobs which is acceptable and consistent all year long
- Set up organisations that encourage tourism on a local scale to support the local community
- Increase police security on touristic spots in order to ensure the safety of the tourists
- Set up educational projects in the problems neighbourhoods to keep the less educated youth of the street.
- Place severe sentences on smuggling and human trafficking
- Set up and reinforce the power of national parks to protect animals and wildlife.

Major organizations/countries involved

Organisations:

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. Are really keen on preserving nature and its inhabitants and culture.

Countries:
Developing countries who receive a lot of tourists:

Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, South-Africa, Brazil and Turkey are the major parties involved as they simply receive the most tourists out of all developing countries. Because the issue currently has forces the biggest problems on these nations, we expect to come up with conclusion and take an important role in the debates

Countries where most countries come from:

Of these previously mentioned countries, a great deal of their income is funded by countries from Europe and North America. The UK, USA, Germany, France, The Netherlands & Australia.

China & India

Both countries belong to both of the previously mentioned lists. It is also to note that they are both member of the so-called BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, Brazil) group. These countries (and arguably Indonesia) all have tremendous potential to grow economically but are currently still suffering from poverty on a big scale.

Timeline of related events

1945: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) was founded. Its plays a major role in determining the industry's policy and standards.
1950: There are now 25 million tourist annually and globally.
1966: Establishment of the United Federation of Travel Agents' Association.
1975: World Trade Organization is now recognized as a global organization.
1977: A runway-crash between two planes in Tenerife sets the record for the deadliest crash in aviation history. 583 are killed; the incident was globally covered on the news and had a negative impact on the tourist sector.
2002: Bali Bombings by Muslim terrorists in a nightclub take 202 lives with over 20 nationalities. A further 209 are injured.
2004: Indian Ocean earthquake & tsunami near the coast of Sumatra (Indonesia) leaves 250 thousand victims in Asia and Africa.
2005: Hurricane Katrina takes over a thousand lives in the Bahamas, Cuba and the US.
2015: Tunisian terrorist attacks. On two separate occasions yet in the same year, a total of 60 tourists are killed by Tunisian Terrorists.
2016: Thailand closes overcrowded Koh Tachai islands due to the negative effects that the tourists bring.
2017: President Trump's travel ban, forbids tourists from Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and North Korea to enter the United States.
2017: Hurricane Irma brings 134 victims in 17 different countries.
2017: an estimated number of 1 billion tourists make the industry to now be one of the most important ones in the world.

Key terms

Infrastructure – the basic physical and organizational structures.

Human rights – the rights a person has simply because they are human.

Westernization – the process whereby society adopts Western Culture.

Sources

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