

Searching for Sustainable Tourism: What Can Sustainable Tourism Bring to Communities?

1. Purpose

We will discuss the potential of, and issues pertaining to, so-called sustainable tourism, such as the forms of eco-tourism and green tourism included in this symposium. We will also discuss what roles these types of tourism can play in conservation of natural resources and revitalization of local communities, specifically those communities which face depopulation and aging.

2. Title

**Searching for Sustainable Tourism:
What Can Sustainable Tourism Bring to Communities?**

3. Date February 15-16, 2008

4. Place Plaza Crypton

(38-4, Uwamatsurisawa, Toshima, Kawabe, Akita-city, Akita, Japan)

5. Host Akita International University, Center for Regional Sustainability Initiatives

6. Program Sponsors

- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
- Ministry of the Environment (Expected)
- Akita Prefecture
- Akita City
- Yamanashi Institute of Environmental Sciences
- Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute
- Japan Travel Bureau Foundation
- National Parks Association of Japan
- Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture
- The Japanese Forest Society
- Japanese Forest Economic Society
- Hokkaido University Center for Advanced Tourism Studies
- Iwate University
- The University Forests, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo
- Department of Natural Resources and Ecomaterials, Graduate School of

Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

- Japanese Association of National Park Studies

7. Number of Participants 200

8. Program Details are given on the attached sheet

9. Application

Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

Please submit the completed application form to Akita International University.

10. Inquiry

Akita International University

Office of Planning and Development

Division of Community Outreach and Services

(Ms. Yuka Okura and Ms. Fumina Suzuki)

Address: 193-2 Okutsubakidai, Tsubakigawa, Yuwa, Akita-city, Akita 010-1211 Japan

Tel: +81-18-886-5905

Fax: +81-18-886-5910

Searching for Sustainable Tourism:

What Can Sustainable Tourism Bring to Communities?

Program

Friday, February 15, 2008

10:00 Opening Address:

Mineo Nakajima, Ph.D.

President, Akita International University

10:30 Tourism and Regional Development

Masashi Omoda, BA

Director, Tourism-Based Regional Development Division, Policy Bureau,

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

11:20 Comments: Yoshitaka Kumagai, Ph.D.

Professor, Director, Center for Regional Sustainability Initiatives,

Akita International University

11:40 What is Sustainable Tourism? What Should We Sustain?

Stephen F. McCool, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, University of Montana

12:20 Comments: Yoshitaka Kumagai, Ph.D.

12:40 Lunch

14:10 The Roles of Tourism in Europe

Ulrike Pröbstl, Ph.D.

Professor, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna

14:50 Comments: Kazunari Yamaki, Ph.D.

Group Leader, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute

15:10 Tourism and Community Revitalization in Korea

Seong-il Kim, Ph.D.

Professor, Seoul National University

15:50 Comments: Tetsuya Aiko, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agriculture, Hokkaido University

16:05 Intermission

16:25 Tourism and Community Revitalization in China

Rui Yang, Ph.D.

Professor, Director, Institute of Resource Protection and Tourism,

School of Architecture, Tsinghua University

17:05 Comments: Yasushi Shoji, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agriculture, Hokkaido University

17:20 Tourism and Community Revitalization in Sri Lanka

F. De S. Palitha Gurusinghe, M.Phil.

President, Sri Lanka Eco Tourism Foundation

18:00 Comments: Mr. Masaru Takayama
Board of Directors, The International Ecotourism Society

Saturday, February 16, 2008

9:00 **Tourism in Local Communities**

Introduction :

The Current Situation of Tourism in Local Communities

Toshiyuki Tsuchiya, Ph.D.

Professor, Institute of Symbiotic Science and Technology,
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

9:40 **Case Studies in Japan**

1. Revitalizing the Ani Area in Akita Prefecture Through Recognizing And Reuseing Local Resources

Hiromi Maenaka, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Akita International University

2. Revitalizing Kanayama Town in Yamagata Prefecture Through Green Tourism

Hironori Okuda, Ph.D.

Team Leader, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute

3. Issues of Tourism on Yakushima Island

Shigemitsu Shibasaki, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Iwate University

4. A Historical View of Tourism, and the Emergence of Eco-Tourism in the Yamanaka Lake Area in Yamanashi Prefecture

Kiyotatsu Yamamoto, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences,
The University of Tokyo

12:00 Lunch

13:40 **Panel Discussion**

Searching for Sustainable Tourism in Japan

Chair:

Yoshitaka Kumagai, Ph.D.

Panelists:

Stephen F. McCool, Ph.D.

Ulrike Pröbstl, Ph.D.

Seong-il Kim, Ph.D.

Rui Yang, Ph.D.

F. De S. Palitha Gurusinghe, M.Phil.

Toshiyuki Tsuchiya, Ph.D.

15:40 **Closing Address:**

Yoshitaka Kumagai, Ph.D.

18:00 **Reception**