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The purpose of this study is to investigate the contribution of tourism to economic growth in Colombia. First, we perform an ex-post analysis. We quantify the contribution of the tourism sector to economic growth from the early 1990's until 2006 by disaggregating the growth of real GDP per capita into economic growth generated by tourism and by other industries. Second, we analyze if international tourism is a strategic factor for long-run economic growth for Colombia. This believes that tourism can cause long-run economic growth it is known in the literature as the tourism-led growth hypothesis. The hypothesis is tested empirically by using the cointegration test by Johansen and the Granger Causality test. We find empirical evidence for one cointegrated vector among real GDP per capita, Colombian tourism expenditures and real exchange rates, where the latter two variables are weakly exogenous to the model. The Granger causality test suggests that causality in this model goes from tourism expenditures to real GDP per capita.

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Youngsun Shin

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tourism source of Gwangju KimDaeJung Convention Centre. Data were collected from 258 in the '2006 Gwangju-Jeonnam Regional Innovation Convention & Exposition' which was held at Gwangju KimDaeJung Convention Centre. It was followed by reliability and adequacy and carried out ANOVA. Results suggested that KimDaeJung Convention Centre has to have a differentiate plan from others, for example, the improvement of traffic system and accommodation for tourists, the development of tourism products related to around sightseeing places, the program developing a substantial course of 'city tour bus' and the database of tourism information. The findings of this study offer useful insights for setting up Gwangju KimDaeJung Convention Centre marketing strategy.

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Zaharias Psillakis, Alkiviadis Panagopoulos & Dimitris Kanellopoulos

This paper establishes a low cost inferential model that allows reliable time series forecasts. The model provides a naive unique computationally straightforward approach based on widely-used additive models. It refers to the decomposition of every time series value in "random" components, which are compounded to constitute a "Fibonacci type" predictor random variable. The expected value of this predictor gives a forecast of a future time series value. The standard deviation of the predictor serves to construct a prediction interval at a predefined confidence level. The major features of our model are: forecasting accuracy, simplicity of the implementation technique, generic usefulness, and extremely low cost effort. These features enable our model to be adopted by tourism practitioners on various types of forecasting demands. In this paper, we present an application study to forecast tourism demand that exists in the Greek accommodation industry (i.e. in Greece and in the broad region of Athens). In the application study, two independent approaches have been adopted. In the first approach we implemented our model, and in the second approach we implemented the well-known Box-Jenkins method. The results of these two approaches were compared. From this comparison: a) the performance of our model is revealed; b) its reliability is confirmed; and c) the model's low cost aspects which include labour skills, financial means and time are supported.

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Vinay Chauhan & Suvidha Khanna

Among the positive benefits attributed to the social and cultural aspects of tourism are the promotion of goodwill, understanding and peace among people across cultures. The role of tourism as an ambassador and vehicle

of international understanding and peace has even been acknowledged by the United Nations. World Tourism Conference in 1960 in Manila has declared that tourism as a vital force for world peace since it brings both “hosts” and “guests” together to learn about peace by understanding and appreciating diverse cultural issues. Kashmir despite of a major tourist destination, the spread of terrorism especially during the last two decades have hindered the smooth growth of tourism industry. Thus following the principle of tourism as a strategic tool to counter terrorism, the present research is conducted to study the tourism’s contribution to the peace building in Kashmir in terms of residents’ and tourists’ perception. The research concludes that tourism has a significant contribution towards peace building in the study area and the study also suggests a strategic model based on developing guest-host relationship.

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Josep Boyra Amposta

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Harold Richins & Janice Scarinci

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J. Carlos Monterrubio

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EDITORIAL

This is the eight issue of TOURISMOS, finishing its fourth year of publication (volume four). In the previous seven issues, our multidisciplinary journal aimed at justifying the rationale behind introducing yet another journal in tourism academic studies. Capitalising on this effort, we now focus on furthering our scope and consolidating our position in both conceptual developments and practical applications in tourism.

In this context, the present issue contains four full papers, three case studies and three research notes with an international flavour. The papers address a number of topics namely tourism growth, tourist motivations, forecasting tourism demand, peace through tourism, destination excellence, climate change and sustainability, impacts of tourism, agrotourism, gay tourism and regional development. In particular, *Juan Gabriel Brida, Juan S. Pereyra, Wiston Adrián Riso, María Jesús Such Devesa & Sandra Zapata Aguirre* produced a very interesting contribution on tourism-led growth in Colombia. The purpose of this study is to investigate the contribution of tourism to economic growth in Colombia. The second paper by *Youngsun Shin*, examines an interesting and rather underexplored topic: convention tourism; it aims to devise measures to develop tourism in the metropolis of Gwangju, emphasizing the activation of a new convention centre. The third paper by *Zaharias Psillakis, Alkiviadis Panagopoulos & Dimitris Kanellopoulos* establishes a low cost inferential model that allows reliable time series forecasts in the hospitality industry. The model provides a naive unique computationally straightforward approach based on widely-used additive models. *Vinay Chauhan & Suvidha Khanna* focus on studying tourism's contribution to the peace building in Kashmir in terms of residents' and tourists' perception. The research concludes that tourism has a significant contribution towards peace building in the study area and the study also suggests a strategic model based on developing guest-host relationship.

With respect to the case studies, *Josep Boyra Amposta* analyzes several factors of environmental change that affect a tourist destination along its cycle of evolution identifying for this purpose some of the existing interdependent bonds within the conceptualization of a tourism/environment system. *Harold Richins & Janice Scarinci* discusses the development, importance and implications of climate change, its relationship to the tourism and hospitality

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industry and provides a case study of the Florida lodging industry regarding mechanisms and responses that the lodging and resort sector of the industry has been taking in addressing climate change factors. *George Zografos & Alex Deffner* examine the evolution of 'Paralia' as a key mass tourism destination in northern Greece. The paper analyses the changes which are brought to a destination as a result of its main markets' current socio-economic situation..

An interesting research note by *Chaido Dritsaki* analyzes the supply of an important form of non urban tourism, the so-called agro tourism, together with providing a detailed literature review of the various stages of a tourist product life cycle. *J. Carlos Monterrubio* aims to contribute to the recognition of two relevant aspects in gay travel; identity and sex. The paper explores the existing published work related to the relationships between tourism, gay men and identity. It concludes that the issue of identity commonly plays a crucial role as a travel reason in gay tourism. Finally, *Panayiotis G.Curtis & Dimitris X. Kokotos* examine regional economic development through tourism by focusing on the Ionian islands

Based on the previous analysis, I trust that you will enjoy reading the contributions made in this eighth issue of TOURISMOS; we are all looking forward to our next issue in spring 2010!

Paris Tsartas
Editor-in-Chief

Evangelos Christou
Associate Editor