

Tourism and Architecture



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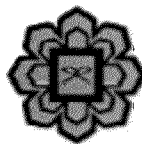
TOURISM AND ARCHITECTURE

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CHAPTER 1

TOURISM, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INCLUSIVE LANDSCAPE

Ismawi bin Zen

ABSTRACT

History makes alive a seemingly dead built environment. The knowledge of it not only enlightens but more importantly it makes the environment exude a sense of inclusivity; the inclusive landscape. Tourism and built environment are two of a kind; they depend, in fact, feed on one another. Tourism may be just a leisurely activity of being away from the mundane of everyday life: to take in fresh air and to enjoy the view of nature. However, more and more tourism activities are now knowledge-oriented. Built environment evolved with the evolution of man and his civilization. Many are not accessible to tourists, especially those considered as people-with-disability (PwDs). While it is simple to take measures to open up accessibility to new buildings, either from design stage or even after commissioning, the need to preserve the historical integrity of an element of a historic built environment poses a real challenge.

Keywords: Historic Built Environment, Cultural Tourism, Inclusive Landscape

INTRODUCTION

The development of travelling and transportation has increased tourism to a height never seen before. Not only AirAsia tagline of "Now Everybody Can Fly" summarizes it all in terms of economic possibility of travelling but technologically travelling has now reached a point of no spatial limitation as Charles Bronson and his Virgin Air is on the verge of taking tourists into space! Undeniably, though the opposite may also be true but travelling is the most important enabler of tourism. Tourism is now becoming more and more important activity not only from the perspective of it being a means of relaxing and free from the stress of the mundane of everyday life sloughing in the workplaces and offices but its objectives has widened to cover many more aspects of human life – from that of an individual to him as part of a global community. The mode can be anything from a person taking his knapsack and wondering where his legs would take him to a cruise on an ocean liner being pampered with all forms of sophistications and services. The impact can therefore be measured in many ways to a place: economically, culturally or environmentally. Many of course are seeing tourism from the first aspect and are least concerned about its impact from the other two.

Since the mid – 1980s, tourism as an industry has grown drastically in its importance to the local economy so much so that it has now become the