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Abstract
As part of the collective effort for community development in Penghu, every community has attempted to combine cultural diversity with tourism to create something of interest, something unique – albeit small in scale – that may tie residents together while improving Penghu's economy. This research took the main island of WanAn community in Penghu as a case study to explore the role cultural tourism may play in a sustainable community development.
The findings of the study indicated that although cultural tourism has a positive effect on sustainable community development, WanAn Township continues to suffer from population drain, in spite of the advantage of holding pertinent cultural tourism resources. In addition, the lack of funding from the part of government and for local organizations, tourism plans cannot not be well implemented, this resulted in community "self-sufficiency" to be an unreachable dream.
This study suggested WanAn community to effectively use whatever limited resources it has to integrate the life-long experiences of the local residents to develop what culturally is unique of the area. The community was suggested to use local schools to train residents so they will have the know-how to run business successfully. Finally, the study suggested that the government should take initiatives in the horizontal integration and to take tourism activities to help the community to market local cultural products. From the infusion of tourism income into local economy to ensure that the cultural heritage is properly conserved, which in turn may make sustainable community development a reality.
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