

Sustainable Tourism: on the Ocean Coast in Asia

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Asia has the longest coastline – many of these are in developing countries in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines and others. They are developing tourism with hotels, resorts, leisure facilities etc. These developments may have given economic boom but at the same time have brought ecological doom. Recent Tsunami disasters have shown these. With globalization tourism has become an industry but at the cost of marine life, biodiversity and ecology and in case of disasters life and property are destroyed. A balanced sustainable development is necessary.

Pollution on the Coast and the Ocean: Besides oil spill from ships and tankers on the ocean near the coast and other pollution at seaports, real estate development has damaged mangrove, coral reefs and marine life. Tourism development has often caused ecological damage, even small ships and fishing boats tear fragile coral reef etc with their anchors. Together with environment, social cultural aspects are overlooked and often indigenous people are displaced. An assessment can be made, on some coastal areas. These displaced persons often build shacks and aesthetic environment becomes ugly. Ecotourism is emphasized, with regulation on coastal planning and development. Zoning may be as use zoning but between protected or conservation areas and development areas, buffer zones may be created waste generated by the tourists is to be recycled.

Coastal Engineering and its impact: Tourism and associated developments require some engineering works. Reclamation of land, dykes, breakwaters, piers, jetties and other conventional shoreline structures have negative impact on environment. It is advocated to adopt new techniques. Architectural and engineering design systems are to be modified.

Sustainable development: Integrated coastal planning and management has been introduced, within a framework of sustainable development. A model for ecotourism is presented in the paper. Public awareness, education and training of local people are essential.