

Report of Study Tour Abroad (International Conference)

The 24th Asia Pacific Chrie (ApacCHRIE) Annual Conference *Elevating Scholarly Research, Nurturing Global Alliances, and Broadening Institutional Influence*

Service Organization: Graduate Institute of Tourism Management,

National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism

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Countries Dispatched to: Japan

Period of Study Tour Abroad: From 2026/05/27 to 2026/06/01

Report Date: 2026/06/02

Abstract

This report details the objectives, execution, and outcomes of an international conference participation and study tour undertaken by Ta Thi Van Chi - a PhD student from National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism (NKUHT). The primary aim of this overseas engagement at the ApacCHRIE Conference in Osaka, Japan, was multifaceted: to present original research findings regarding the intersection of mindfulness and sustainability, conduct pertinent field observations on Japanese green hospitality operations, effectively represent NKUHT on an international platform, acquire cutting-edge knowledge from global experts, and cultivate invaluable academic and professional networks. The report outlines the strategic preparation involved, the comprehensive schedule of activities during the conference, and the significant experiences garnered. These experiences encompass substantial professional development through exposure to diverse research methodologies, the establishment of robust academic connections, and a notable enhancement of NKUHT's international visibility. Furthermore, actionable suggestions are offered for the university and future student attendees to maximize their international academic participation.

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1. Purpose

Firstly, a paramount purpose was **to present a research** paper titled “Understanding sustainable practices in Vietnam's hospitality sector: a resource-institutional perspective” . This presentation offered a crucial opportunity to disseminate my doctoral work to a global audience of peers, senior scholars, and industry practitioners, soliciting valuable feedback essential for refining my dissertation's theoretical frameworks.

Secondly, the tour aimed **to conduct field observation** pertinent to my research. Beyond the conference, dedicated time was allocated to visit Osaka, a city leading in urban sustainability and hospitality practices. This direct observation allowed for the real-world application of theoretical concepts, identification of best practices in sustainable tourism and hospitality management, and understanding of diverse operational models. Such firsthand experience is invaluable for grounding academic research in practical realities and identifying new avenues for inquiry that might not be apparent from literature reviews alone.

Thirdly, a significant objective was **to represent the NKUHT** on an international stage. As a third-year PhD candidate, my involvement aimed to highlight NKUHT's expertise in hospitality and tourism education, elevate the university's global profile, and foster potential international research collaborations.

Fourthly, the tour was designed **to gain knowledge and insights** from international experts and practitioners. Attending the keynote speeches, parallel panels, and specialized workshops at ApacCHRIE provided exposure to the latest global research trends, digital transformations, and emerging post-pandemic challenges in hospitality education. The opportunity to learn from diverse perspectives, engage in Q&A sessions, and absorb new ideas was critical for broadening my academic horizons and enriching my understanding of the complex dynamics shaping the field.

Finally, a core purpose was **to network and collaborate** with scholars, researchers, and industry professionals across the Asia-Pacific region. Building these relationships is vital for future collaborative publications, international academic exchanges, and professional development. I actively sought out individuals whose work aligned with my interests, initiating discussions that could lead to future partnerships.

2. Process

Preparation phase: This phase began several months prior to departure. It involved the rigorous preparation of my research paper for submission, followed by revisions based on peer review feedback. Concurrently, I researched the conference program to identify key sessions, speakers, and potential collaborators relevant to my research. Visa applications, flight bookings, and accommodation arrangements were meticulously handled. Financial planning, including securing university funding and personal budgeting, was also a critical component.

Travel and arrival: The journey to Osaka, Japan was planned to allow for sufficient rest before the conference commenced. Upon arrival, I familiarized myself with the conference venue and the

surrounding area, ensuring smooth navigation throughout the event.

05/27	Take a flight from Kaohsiung to Osaka
	Check-in homestay
05/28	Attend Pre-Conference workshop
	Explore Osaka at night
05/29	Attend Opening ceremony & keynote speeches
	Present at Concurrent session 2 - ESG and Sustainability Governance
	Attend poster session (group 1)
05/30	Attend Concurrent session 3, 4, 5
	Explore Osaka food at night
05/31	Take a field trip to Kyoto
06/01	Take a flight from Osaka to Kaohsiung

Post-tour reflection: Upon returning, I immediately began compiling notes, organizing feedback from session chair, and synthesizing insights for dissertation integration, and reflecting on the overall experience to prepare this comprehensive report.

3. Experience

Firstly, my professional academic development was significantly enhanced. Presenting my research to an international audience improved my presentation skills, critical thinking, and ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and concisely. The feedback received from senior scholars and peers was invaluable, offering new perspectives on my methodology and areas for future research. Attending diverse sessions exposed me to cutting-edge research methodologies, theoretical advancements, and practical innovations within the global hospitality and tourism sector. The experience also broadened my academic vocabulary and understanding of international research standards.

Secondly, the opportunities for academic networking were extensive and highly fruitful. Established meaningful connections with leading professors and researchers from top-tier hospitality programs in Hong Kong, Macau, Nepal, the Philippines, Vietnam and Japan. Discussions on how hoteliers can overcome the climate crisis through tourism generated potential ideas for future joint research projects and cross-cultural data collection.

Finally, the study tour significantly contributed to the institutional visibility of NKUHT. By actively participating in Q&A sessions and presenting high-quality research, I successfully demonstrated the academic rigor of NKUHT's PhD program. Distributing institutional contact details and sharing our research achievements helped strengthen NKUHT's reputation as a center

of excellence in hospitality and tourism education. I also asked for academic representatives' contacts to support the university's QS Subject Ranking work. And the conference proceedings, which will include my paper, will further serve as a tangible record of NKUHT's contribution to the field.

4. Suggestions

- **For the University**

Tailored pre-conference mentorship: Implement targeted mock-presentation sessions within the graduate institute where senior faculty can critique presentation slides and practice potential Q&A scenarios with student delegates.

Cross-institutional funding channels: Continue and expand financial support mechanisms for PhD candidates presenting at top-tier conferences (like ApacCHRIE and APTA) to sustain NKUHT's strong international presence.

- **For future attendees**

Thorough research and preparation: Before attending, research the conference program, identify sessions and speakers most relevant to your research, and prepare a list of questions or discussion points. Also, research the host city/country for field observation opportunities and cultural experiences.

Network proactively: Do not wait for others to approach you. Be proactive in initiating conversations during coffee breaks, poster sessions, and social events. Have a concise pitch about your research and be genuinely interested in others' work. Carry business cards with your contact information and NKUHT affiliation.

Practice your presentation extensively: Rehearse your presentation multiple times, ideally in front of peers or mentors, to refine your delivery, timing, and clarity. Be prepared for a wide range of questions and practice concise answers.

Set clear objectives: Before departing, clearly define your personal and academic objectives for the trip. This will help you prioritize activities and ensure you make the most of your time.

Document your experience: Keep a detailed journal of your observations, insights, and contacts made. Take photos (where appropriate) and collect brochures or relevant materials. This documentation will be invaluable for your report and future reference.

Follow up on connections: After the conference, follow up with new contacts via email. Refer to your conversation to jog their memory and suggest next steps for potential collaboration or continued dialogue. Building lasting relationships requires consistent effort.

Embrace cultural immersion: Beyond academic activities, take time to experience the local culture. This enriches the overall study tour experience and provides broader context for understanding the global hospitality and tourism landscape.

5. Photos from the conference



Presenting in the “ESG and Sustainability Governance” session at the Conference (May 29)



Answering questions from Dr. Kim (May 29)



Gathering with Professors from the NKUHT (May 29)



Connecting with fellow delegates (May 29)



Connecting with fellow delegates (May 30)



Visiting Kyoto with fellow delegates (May 31)