

Report on Study Tour Abroad (Category of Study Tour Abroad: International Conference)

ICRTH (International Conference on Responsible Tourism and Hospitality) International Conference Report

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Destination Country: The Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The 5th International Conference on Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (ICRTH) 2025, held at The Bayleaf Hotel Cavite and Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) – Cavite, Philippines, was a powerful convergence of global tourism and hospitality stakeholders committed to advancing sustainability in the industry. With the theme “*Responsible Tourism for Sustainable Transformation and Inclusive Societies*,” the conference provided a timely platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation focused on creating meaningful change within tourism systems worldwide.

As an International Master’s student in Tourism and Hospitality at NKUHT, I had the privilege of attending the main conference sessions and the networking dinner, where I engaged with professionals, academics, and industry leaders from around the world. The experience was not only intellectually enriching but also deeply inspiring, offering invaluable opportunities to build networks, exchange ideas, and gain insight into current best practices in responsible tourism.

I proudly presented my research, “*The Impact of Climate Change on Coastal Tourism: Challenges and Adaptation Strategies*,” which explores the pressing vulnerabilities facing coastal destinations and proposes adaptive strategies for resilience. I was truly honored to receive the Best Paper Award, a recognition that affirms my commitment to contributing impactful research in support of sustainable and inclusive tourism development.

The ICRTH 2025 was more than a conference—it was a dynamic forum for learning, connection, and action. It strengthened my belief in the power of responsible tourism to drive sustainable transformation and foster inclusive societies.

Keywords: ICRTH 2025, NKUHT, IMTH, Responsible Tourism, Sustainable Development

PURPOSE

As part of the International Master's Program in Tourism and Hospitality (IMTH) at National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism (NKUHT), students are strongly encouraged to engage in international conferences. These opportunities play a vital role in both academic development and boosting the university's visibility on the global stage.

Attending such conferences exposes students to the latest trends, innovative approaches, and emerging research in the tourism and hospitality sectors. These events provide a vibrant setting for interacting with professionals, scholars, and peers from around the world, allowing students to expand their knowledge of the global tourism landscape. Participation broadens their worldview beyond Taiwan, helping them develop key skills required to excel in an interconnected industry. Additionally, networking with global experts can lead to valuable academic and professional relationships, potentially opening doors for future research collaborations and career opportunities.

In addition, attending conferences is a graduation requirement for IMTH students, who must earn at least six academic points through presentations and professional interactions. This ensures that students remain actively engaged in academic discussions and continue to build expertise in the field.

Lastly, representing NKUHT at international conferences enhances the university's reputation on the global stage. By showcasing our research and academic accomplishments, students contribute to elevating NKUHT's standing in tourism and hospitality education. This international presence helps pave the way for future collaborations, partnerships, and research initiatives, further strengthening the university's global impact.

PROCESS

DATE	ACTIVITY
June 15, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Departure from Taiwan• Arrival to Manila, Philippines
June 16, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference Opening Ceremony• Academic Presentations (Attended my classmates' presentations)
June 17, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Presentations (My presentation and attended my classmates' presentations)• Assisted in IMTH, NKUHT networking session• Attended Networking dinner
June 18, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awards and Closing Ceremony
June 20, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Departure from Philippines• Arrival to KHH, Taiwan

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND SUGGESTIONS

Attending the 5th International Conference on Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (ICRTH) 2025 was a transformative experience, and the most memorable part was when I presented my research on *“The Impact of Climate Change on Coastal Tourism: Challenges and Adaptation Strategies.”* Standing before a global audience and sharing my findings was both exhilarating and nerve-wracking. I remember my hands trembling and my breath coming in heavy bursts, which made it hard to focus on other presentations before mine. The nerves were overwhelming, but it was also a powerful moment of personal growth.

Initially, I was terrified of presenting in person. I felt much safer considering an online presentation, but a close friend encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and attend physically. She assured me that this would open up valuable opportunities—and she was right. The in-person experience not only helped me overcome my fears but also allowed me to engage directly with experts, gaining valuable feedback that will shape my future research. Winning the Best Paper Award for my presentation was an unexpected honor, and it greatly boosted my confidence, motivating me to continue pursuing high-impact research in the field of responsible tourism.

The feedback I received from the panel was particularly insightful. They recommended narrowing my focus to a specific region, which I now plan to implement in my thesis. This will help refine my research and provide more targeted, actionable conclusions for the industry.

One aspect that could further enhance the overall experience for students attending international conferences is the availability of additional financial support for travel and accommodations. While participating in such events is undeniably valuable, the costs associated with these trips—especially for accommodations near the venue—can sometimes be a challenge for students. In this instance, staying further from the venue resulted in longer commutes and additional expenses, which limited the time available to engage fully in all conference activities.

It might be beneficial to consider exploring ways in which the university can support students with financial assistance or funding options that cover both travel and accommodation expenses. This would help alleviate some of the financial pressures and allow students to focus entirely on the academic and networking opportunities that such conferences offer. By streamlining these logistics, more students would likely be encouraged

to participate in these global events, contributing to their professional development while further enhancing NKUHT's international visibility and presence.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to NKUHT for supporting this incredible opportunity. The chance to attend and present at such a prestigious conference has been invaluable to my academic and personal development. I am truly thankful for the resources, encouragement, and guidance provided by the university, which enabled me to gain such a rewarding experience. The support from the faculty and staff has played a key role in my journey, and I am proud to represent NKUHT on the global stage.

APPENDIX



Opening Ceremony



My Presentation



IMTH Session



Lunch with IMTH Classmates



Networking Dinner



Closing Ceremony