

Report of Study Tour Abroad (International Conference)

The 30th Asia Pacific Tourism Association (APTA) Annual Conference *Advancing research, Fostering collaboration, and Enhancing institutional visibility*

Service Organization: Graduate Institute of Tourism Management,
National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism

Name and Professional Title: Ta Thi Van Chi 謝氏云枝,
Ph.D Student

Countries Dispatched to: Korea

Period of Study Tour Abroad: From 2025/07/06 to 2025/07/11

Report Date: 2025/07/15

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 was multifaceted: to present original research findings, conduct pertinent field observations, effectively represent NKUHT on an international platform, acquire cutting-edge knowledge and insights from global experts, and cultivate invaluable academic and professional networks. The abstract outlines the strategic preparation involved, the comprehensive schedule of activities during the conference and subsequent study tour, and the significant experiences garnered. These experiences encompass substantial professional development through exposure to diverse research methodologies and perspectives, the establishment of robust academic connections, and a notable enhancement of NKUHT's international visibility. Furthermore, this report offers actionable suggestions for NKUHT to optimize future international engagements for its students and faculty, as well as practical advice for prospective attendees to maximize their participation. This initiative underscores NKUHT's commitment to fostering global academic excellence and preparing its PhD candidates for impactful contributions to their respective fields.

Table of contents

Abstract.....	2
Table of contents	3
1. Purpose.....	4
2. Process.....	5
3. Experience.....	5
4. Suggestions.....	6
5. Photos from the conference	7

1. Purpose

Firstly, a paramount purpose was **to present a research** paper titled “Drivers And Barriers To Green Practices Implementation in The Hospitality Industry in Developing Countries” . This presentation offered a crucial opportunity to disseminate my current doctoral work to a global audience of peers and senior scholars, solicit valuable feedback, and engage in critical discourse that is essential for refining research methodologies and theoretical frameworks. Presenting at such a prestigious event also served as a benchmark of my research quality and its relevance within the international academic community.

Secondly, the tour aimed **to conduct field observation** pertinent to my research. Beyond the conference, dedicated time was allocated to visit leading hospitality establishments, tourism organizations, and relevant academic institutions in Asia Pacific countries. 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. For instance, observing eco-friendly hotel practices in Busan provided tangible examples of concepts discussed in my paper.

Thirdly, a significant objective was **to represent the NKUHT** on an international stage. As a PhD student, I served as an ambassador for the university, showcasing the quality of research conducted within its programs and the academic rigor of its students. This representation involved active participation in conference sessions, engaging in professional networking events, and highlighting NKUHT's expertise in hospitality and tourism education and research. My presence aimed to elevate the university's profile, foster potential collaborations, and attract future talent.

Fourthly, the tour was designed **to gain knowledge and insights** from international experts and practitioners. Attending keynote speeches, parallel sessions, and workshops provided exposure to the latest research trends, innovative methodologies, and emerging challenges in the global hospitality and tourism industry. 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. This direct interaction with leading minds offered insights that are often not fully captured in published literature.

Finally, a core purpose was **to network and collaborate** with scholars, researchers, and industry professionals from around the world. International conferences are unparalleled platforms for forging new connections, discussing potential joint research projects, and identifying opportunities for academic exchange. Building these relationships is vital for future career development, accessing diverse research resources, and contributing to a more interconnected global academic community. 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 Busan, Korea 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.

07/06	Take a flight from Kaohsiung to Busan
	Check-in Busan Tourist Hotel
07/07	Attend TiP session and Concurrent session 1
	Attend Welcome Reception
07/08	Attend Concurrent session 2, 3
	Attend keynote speeches 1, 2
	Present at Concurrent session 4 - Lodging management
	Attend Concurrent session 5
	Take a field trip to Taejongdae in Yeongdo District. It is a popular tourist attraction in Busan with an observatory, an amusement park, a light house, and a cruise ship terminal.
07/09	Attend Concurrent session 6
	Attend keynote speeches 3, 4
	Attend Concurrent session 7, 8
	Attend Farewell dinner
07/10	Take a field trip to Haedong Yonggungsa Temple and Blue Line Park Sky Capsule
07/11	Take a flight from Busan to Kaohsiung

Post-tour reflection: Upon returning, I immediately began compiling notes, synthesizing observations, and reflecting on the overall experience to prepare this comprehensive report.

3. Experience

Firstly, my professional development was significantly enhanced. Presenting my research to an international audience honed 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. I connected with numerous scholars from various universities across continents, including Europe, North America, and Pacific Asia. These interactions led to discussions about potential future collaborations, such as joint publications, participation in research projects, and academic exchanges. I exchanged contact information with several professors and PhD candidates working on similar topics, establishing a foundation for ongoing dialogue and mutual support. For instance, a discussion with Doctor Michael Lin from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University about food waste management in restaurants opened up a new line of inquiry for my dissertation. These connections are vital for building a global academic community and fostering inter-university cooperation.

Finally, the study tour significantly contributed to the institutional visibility of NKUHT. My presence and presentation at an internationally recognized conference showcased the university's commitment to high-quality research and its active participation in global academic discourse. By engaging in discussions and networking, I was able to highlight NKUHT's unique strengths, its specialized programs in hospitality and tourism, and the caliber of its faculty and students. This direct representation helps to build NKUHT's reputation, potentially attracting international students and fostering collaborations with other academic institutions. 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**

Pre-departure workshops: Organize workshops focusing on international conference etiquette, effective networking strategies, and tips for delivering impactful presentations to diverse audiences. These workshops could also cover cultural nuances of the host country.

Mentorship program for international engagements: Establish a mentorship program where senior faculty or experienced PhD graduates who have attended international conferences can guide new attendees. This could include advice on paper submission, presentation preparation, and networking.

- **For future attendees**

Thorough research and preparation: Before attending, meticulously 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

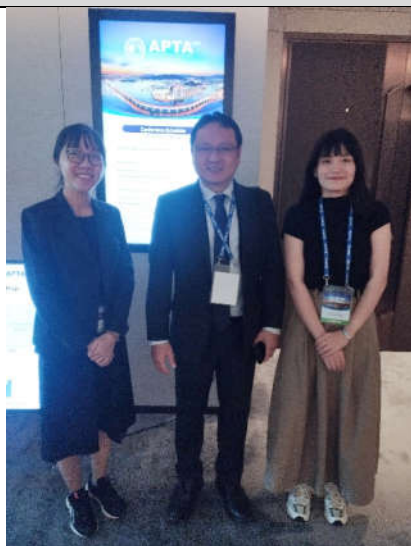
	
<p><i>Presenting in the “Lodging management” session at the Conference (July 8)</i></p>	<p><i>Listening comments from Dr. Michael Lin and discussing with other delegates</i></p>



Connecting with fellow delegates (July 7)



Connecting with fellow delegates (July 8)



Gathering with Prof. Liang from the NKUHT (July 9)



Visiting Taejongdae in Yeongdo District with fellow delegates (July 8)



Experiencing Busan with international friends (July 10)