

Governance of seaside tourist resorts areas confronted with environmental challenges in Southeast Asia



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Introduction

Talking about Tourism and environmental challenges in coastal areas in Southeast Asia

Content

- 1 – Tourism expansion and pressures on coastal areas
- 2 – Environmental risks and undersized urban services
- 3 – Governance: a key-factor for coastal areas conservation and risks management

Introduction

Talking about Tourism and environmental challenges on coastal areas in Southeast Asia

- Not all SEA coastal areas urbanized; but majority of population, urban areas, fast growing of seaside tourism resort areas;
- Like other human/economic activities, tourism both contributes to environmental hazards/risks/Climate Change & is affected by them (WTO);
- New consensus about « Environment » and the « climate emergency »?

1 - Tourism expansion and pressures on coastal areas

- Southeast Asia: fast process of tourism expansion
 - . Foreign tourists in SEA x 4 since 1997 (120.4 millions in 2017);
++ role of coastal areas
 - . Tourism growth: Foreign + Regional + Domestic Tourists
 - . Reconfiguration & resizing of Seaside tourism resort areas, from small villages to large urban areas + megaprojects (from tourism to multifunctional)
- International and national dynamics at play (promotion, economic growth, ASEAN/ASIAN dynamics, China, governance, competition, corruption, etc.)

2 – Environmental risks and undersized urban services

2.1 - Growing pollution: soil, air, water and sea, noise

- Pollution sources and effects, esp. marine's, broadcasted through social media (tourists, medias, etc.);
- Coastal erosion, pollutions control and waste (liquid & solid) management = among the most critical points in urban management in SEA (Cabasset, Nitivattananon, Wiranatha, 2019);
- WHO: 85% of waste water worldwide are directly rejected into the sea; Problem of water supply (subsidence & ground water pollution); Deficit of clean transportation means & air pollution;
- Social challenges: opposition movements to some large-scale projects

2.2 - Effects of Climate Change & extreme weather events

- COP21 Agreement; 2016 - 2019 = the 4 warmest years for the planet;
- Alarming sea level rise from ice sheet & glacier loss: 1 meter by 2100 (IPCC, 2019); + 2 meters by 2100 if business-as-usual (Bamber and Al, 2019)
- SEA: Low land and coastal areas + small islands = especially vulnerable
 - Major part of big cities and plenty of secondary cities are coastal-based (incl. Singapore)
 - Most of seaside tourist resort areas are also affected / potentially affected (flooding, submersion, coastal erosion, etc.). Rebuild, maintain... = high cost
 - New roads, hotels, etc. still built too close of high tide line = safety problem



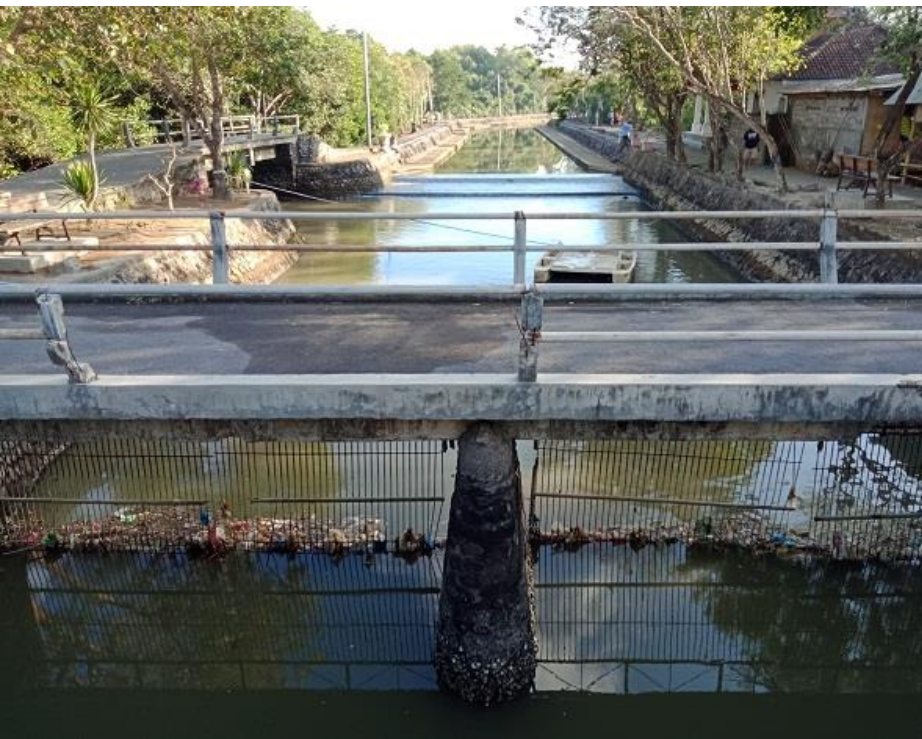
3 – Governance, a key-factor for costal areas conservation and risks management

3.1 – Regional SEA and international

- Major part of works on CC through UN (UNFCCC): National Communication, National & Municipal action plans, INDC, etc.;
- ASEAN Sec: Increasing attention since 2000 through working groups & reports (biodiversity, quality of sea water, haze, sustainable cities, CC, etc.);
- At Country or local scale: Mass transportations, Protected areas, Waste reduction policy (e.g. plastic), sustainable destinations, etc.

3.2 – Good local governance

- Quality of governance +++ for better governed/managed destinations;
- Social structure / social cohesion; participative democracy; environmentally sustainable project
- Adaptation to CC: coastal protection against sea erosion (ex. Bali); but Protection measures vs Tourism activities extension on the beach; DRM; GHG reduction (transportation, waste, etc.); « Resilience »: Central/Local Gvts, international cooperation (incl. between Uni-Research Centers), NGOs, e.g. integrated coastal management (ex. with IUCN, CI);
- Closure (definite or indefinite) of overfrequented Islands or beaches (Taichai + Maya Bay in TH, Boracay in PH, Komodo in IN) + quota of visitors;
- Innovation in Private sector (AC, energy, water, waste water, construction & architecture, etc.);



Conclusion: In SEA (like global), still a long way to go for combatting CC and pollution... but:

- SEA Potential strengths
 - New Elites; Better education & training in territory planning & environment
 - International / regional / transnational cooperation
 - Environmental NGOs
 - Civile society (esp. when environmental damages and land grabbing)
 - More specialized journalists / medias

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