

Tourism Economics in an Age of Turbulence

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In Rimini, on 16th of April 2009, a conference within the Tourism Economics Lecture was organised by the Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis (RCEA) in collaboration with the Faculty of Economics – Rimini Campus of the University of Bologna.

The title “Tourism Economics in an Age of Turbulence” has triggered interesting discussion on perspective of tourism economics research at local, regional and at a wider scale.

Welcoming addresses, that included several thoughts about tourism challenges and opportunities in the Rimini, were given by Mr . Andrea Babbi, CEO of the Tourist Board of the Emilia-Romagna Region (APT Servizi), Prof. Corrado Benassi, Dean of the Faculty of Economics Rimini and Mr Luciano Chicchi, President of Uni.Rimini SpA.

Chaired by Prof. Gianluigi Pelloni (University of Bologna, Johns Hopkins University-Bologna Centre and RCEA) and Dr. Roberto Patuelli (University of Lugano and RCEA), the first speech was held by Prof. Paolo Figini (University of Bologna and RCEA) presenting the theoretical foundation of the economics of destination.

The following contribution, by Professor Sofronis Clerides (University of Cyprus and RCEA), focused on the discussion of the scope of tourism-led growth presenting international empirical evidences on the role and issues of tourism in economic growth and in GDP contribution in selected countries.

Prof. Claudio Piga (University of Loughborough and RCEA), inspired by algorithm used by the low-cost airfare to set ticket prices, examined revenue management in transport and tourism sector in theory and practice.

The invited keynote Speech was Prof. Peter Nijkamp (Vrije Universitet Amsterdam) who widely presented challenges in tourism from an economic, political and geographical perspective. Moreover, he presented an agent-based decision support model for the development of e-services in the tourist sector, especially focusing on cultural and heritage potentiality of three cities: Amsterdam, Genoa and Leipzig.

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