

Preface

In articulating an opening to a special issue collection like this one, guiding markers are often comprised of a coherent thematic that binds papers and builds on knowledge development relating to research issues that authors have a common pursuit of. However, in this case, we depart from the conventional approach referred to above. Instead, this volume is made up of a collection emanating from the 2022 *International Tourism Research Salon* — an event tied to Wakayama University’s Center for Tourism Research’s (CTR) annual international conference series.

As a showcase, authors are made up of Visiting Fellows and Members of CTR. The former unable to ‘visit’ given Japan’s border restrictions, that at the time of writing, remain doggedly inaccessible. Although, unintentionally disparate, contributions are global in their focus riffing on research topics that remain pressing across the globe with much underlined by persistent concerns regarding sustainability, human-animal relationships in tourism, the post-pandemic new normal, social justice, gender empowerment, rural revitalization concerns, spirituality, and natural resources management, among a plethora of other exhortations.

As we embark onto what many refer to as the post-pandemic era, if there will ever be such a thing, and amidst the reverberations of narratives to ‘build back better,’ many of the contributions to this special issue provoke deeper thoughts regarding the extent to which global tourism will emerge better for the crisis. These short communication pieces offer a glimpse of ongoing wider research agendas and encourage readers to engage more fully with the collective works of contributors to this special issue.

CTR’s humble ambitions are to develop as a hub of tourism research in the Asia Pacific region and this volume is a testament to that with authors maintaining roots in Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and Malaysia, as well as researchers further afield with their heredities linked to North America and Europe, but with keen eyes affixed to tourism in this part of the world.

It is our hope that these concise contributions can provide generative ground for deeper more fertile incursions into topics that are not only timely and relevant but help shed better light on the wider research endeavors of all contributors.

We acknowledge authors, reviewers, and the editorial team for delivering this special issue in tribute to the 2022 *International Tourism Research Salon*, and eagerly look forward to making the leap from the virtual, to face-to-face where we can engage in convivial and long-missed research conversations.

Joseph M. Cheer PhD

Professor, Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University, Japan

Co Editor-in-Chief, *Wakayama Tourism Review*

Co Editor-in-Chief, *Tourism Geographies*

Visiting Professor, UCSI University, Malaysia

Adjunct Professor, AUT (Auckland University of Technology), New Zealand

March 2022