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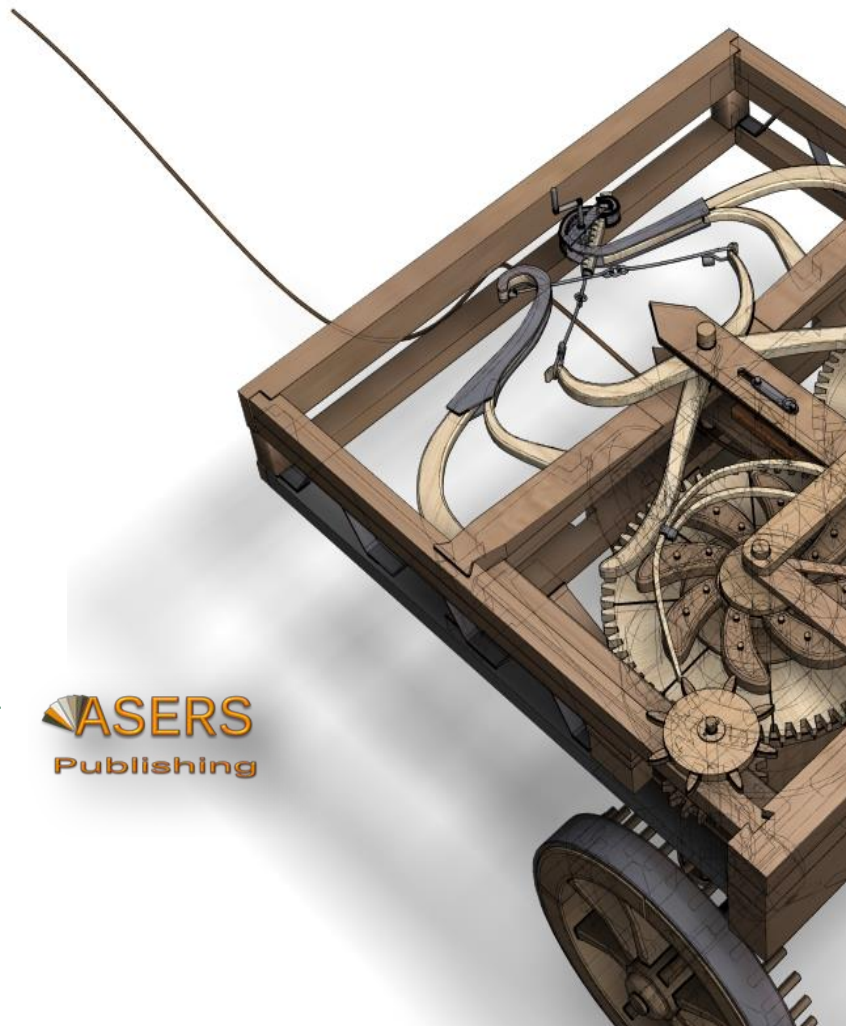
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# Call for Papers

## Winter Issues 2023

### Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism

**Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism** is an open access, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research journal, aimed to publish articles and original research papers that contribute to the development of both experimental and theoretical nature in the field of Environmental Management and Tourism Sciences. The Journal publishes original research and seeks to cover a wide range of topics regarding environmental management and engineering, environmental management and health, environmental chemistry, environmental protection technologies (water, air, soil), pollution reduction at source and waste minimization, energy and environment, modelling, simulation and optimization for environmental protection; environmental biotechnology, environmental education and sustainable development, environmental strategies and policies.

Authors are encouraged to submit high quality, original works that discuss the latest developments in environmental management research and application with the certain scope to share experiences and research findings and to stimulate more ideas and useful insights regarding current best-practices and future directions in Environmental Management.

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## Earthquake, COVID, and the Economic Survival: How Tourism Entrepreneurs in Lombok Survived During the Double Disaster

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**Abstract:** This study aims to map the economic survival strategies of tourism entrepreneurs during the disaster period (earthquake and COVID-19) on Lombok Island. The research methods were documentation, interview, and observation. Documentation used to collect the government's policies in the economic, banking, and financial sectors. Interviews were conducted with tourism entrepreneurs in relation to their economic survival steps and strategies. Observation was used to see the economic survival activities carried out by tourism businesses. In this study found that the Indonesian and West Nusa Tenggara regional governments issued an economic policy in the relation with earthquake and covid disasters. Based on these government policies, tourism sector economic entrepreneurs survive in disaster conditions, and create other sources outside the tourism sector as a source of family economics. The survival economy of tourism entrepreneurs during the disaster period was by changing professions as traders with family savings capital, involving all resources in the family to meet household needs, and utilizing several strategic government economic policies during the disaster time.

**Keywords:** tourism; disaster; economic survival.

**JEL Classification:** J15; J18; J17; Z32; R11.

## Introduction

Tourism is the heart of the economic sector that contributes a significant amount to the economic growth of the people in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara. Therefore, development on the island of Lombok is focused on supporting tourism; both at the macro and micro levels (Salahuddin and Abdillah 2022). West Nusa Tenggara Province is the first local government in Indonesia which declared itself as a Halal Destination/Halal Tourism in Indonesia. The distinction of Halal Tourism was intentionally taken as a distinction of Lombok tourism activities and services with other tourism in Indonesia. Tourism service activities are also directed to meet halal tourism service standards, both national and international standards. With this policy, Lombok received an award as the best destination of halal tourism in 2016, and the best halal honeymoon in Qatar. By receiving the above awards, Lombok tourism received great attention from the world community. The peak of tourist visits in Lombok occurred in 2017 with a total number of visitors of 3,508,903. In 2018 (second quarter) the number of tourist visits in Lombok reached 1,314,788 tourists, and then stagnated due to the earthquake disaster that occurred in Lombok (Badan Pusat Statistik 2019).

Lombok's first major earthquake occurred on July 29, 2018, with a magnitude of 7.0, which was followed by small earthquakes with a magnitude of 3-5. The second earthquake on August 5, 2018, a week after the first earthquake, Lombok was rocked by an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2, which was also accompanied by aftershocks with a magnitude of 3-6. For more than 3 months the island of Lombok was struck by earthquakes with a magnitude of 3-5. Economic activities were paralyzed, schools were closed, tourism was suspended, and government services were severely delayed. The people of Lombok lived for 6 months under the fear of disaster and lost their lives. Only medical officers, disaster agencies and volunteers were actively serving the needs of the community. As a result of the earthquake, 436 people died, 1,941 units of shops were destroyed, 92 hotels were closed, 13 traditional markets were damaged, 1,836 shops/retails were broken, 71,962 residential houses can no longer be resided in, 671 units of educational institutions were broken, and 128 places of worship were also destroyed. Material losses due to the earthquake were estimated at IDR 8.8 trillion (BNPB, NTB 2018). The problems that followed the earthquake were social, economic, health, security, and other issues that required special care and attention. In the context of tourism, Lombok lost potential visitors during the July-December 2018 period.

The President of Indonesia issued Presidential Instruction No. 5/2018 on the acceleration of rehabilitation and reconstruction after the Lombok earthquake. With the above instruction, the national food supply and clothing assistance were focused on the recovery of Lombok; mainly the recovery of trauma caused by the earthquake. By the end of 2018, the people of Lombok were living on the assistance of other regions, the Financial Services Authority provided relaxation of financing for businesses, financial institutions adjusted to economic conditions, and the community slowly began to rise from the disaster; rebuilding economic joints and reviving tourism activities.

In early 2019, Lombok gradually recovered. Tourist visits began to be busy again. Many tourists deliberately come to Lombok not only to enjoy tourist destinations but are more interested in visiting Lombok after the big earthquake. The 2018 earthquake was both a disaster and a blessing for the people of Lombok; tourist visits soared after the earthquake with a total of 3,789,754 visitors in 2019. When the tourism sector and the economy of Lombok rise, the corona virus disease (COVID) comes to destroy the economic foundation that has just been built.

COVID is a virus that changed the world; political, social, educational, economic, religious, and other aspects of life (Choironi 2021, Mas'udah *et al.* 2021, Sarnoto 2021, Wibisono *et al.* 2020). The global order is fundamentally changing because of COVID-19 that originated in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization (WHO) announced COVID-19 as a deadly virus on March 11, 2020. The world community lives under the shadow of death, people's activities are only at home, social restrictions are imposed, only officers are freely outside the house to ensure that no one leaves the house, state-religion relations are tense, civil society and government relations were frozen; people's lives were quite tense.

In the conditions described above, the Indonesian government issued regulation Number 21 of 2020 concerning large-scale social restrictions in order to accelerate the handling of COVID-19. As a result, the space for people to move is very limited, the economy stagnated, face-to-face social communication was cut off, houses of worship were closed, shopping centers and markets were heavily guarded; the situation during the COVID-19 period was like a war situation. Every member of the community is required to survive in this condition; physically, socially, mentally, and economically.

This article specifically discusses the economic survival of tourism entrepreneurs in Lombok; what their creativity-innovative ideas are, the strategies taken, how the government is involved, and the output of their ideas and activities in the face of economic uncertainty caused by the double disaster; the earthquake-18 and COVID-19 disasters.

## 1. Literature Review

Studies on the economic impact of the pandemic have been published, both on a regional scale, Siswanto *et al.* 2021, Soesilo 2021), national, (Abe 2021, UNICEF 2021, Vet *et al.* 2021), and international (Delardas *et al.* 2022, Levy and Filippini 2021, Padhan and Prabheesh 2021, Roy 2010). Many academics have also conducted research on the economic impact of the Lombok earthquake, both regionally and nationally. In general, the research mentioned above covers about policies, finance, losses, and recovery strategies during disasters. In Indonesia, earthquake and covid disasters occurred in tandem (Palu City and Lombok Island). When the community moved towards economic recovery after the earthquake in 2019, COVID descended on it in early 2020. This 'double kill' of the community's economy has an impact on the community's ability to survive in a crisis. Especially if the economy is associated with tourism, it is very heavy and has a long impact on tourism entrepreneurs.

The relation of tourism and economy is a symbiotic relationship of mutualism and can simultaneously encourage the quality and welfare of society. Travelers, money, and services/goods in the tourism industry are variables that increase economic activity in tourism (Wahab and Cooper 2005, 75). The direct impact of tourism is the employment of new labor, the development of innovative products of goods and services of local communities, and the formation of economic networks (Febriani 2016, Haryana 2020, Ma'ruf and Masmulyadi 2013, Wilson and Ypeij 2012). Therefore, almost all countries in the world today are enhancing the 'face of the city' to attract visitors. In addition to infrastructure, improvements in the quality and quantity of accommodation and restaurant services are also made to please visitors. Exploration of new destinations is developed to add to the menu of visits for tourists. Investment in tourism is a long-term and promising investment (Cholik 2017, Haryana 2020, Manzoor *et al.* 2019, Pérez-Rodríguez *et al.* 2022, Rasool *et al.* 2021).

Investment and business activities in the tourism sector have been disrupted by the COVID-19. COVID-19 is a virus similar to Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) (Özdemir 2020). This virus was discovered in Wuhan in 2019, and was named Corona Virus by The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (Ahn *et al.* 2020, Miller 2020, Özdemir 2020, Tang *et al.* 2020). Similar to MERS and SARS, the symptoms of people who have contracted COVID are coughing, runny nose, fever, respiratory problems, and digestive disorders (Ahn *et al.* 2020; Özdemir 2020; Tang *et al.* 2020). The spread of the virus occurs through slithering animals such as bats, snakes, pangolins, and other wild animals (Özdemir 2020). COVID-19 has spread rapidly to almost the entire world in a very short period of time (Silveira and de Oliveira 2020). The media has helped to speed up the process of spreading (Cinelli *et al.* 2020; Lull 2011), and at the same time create a fearful situation (Pillay and Barnes 2020). COVID-19, also presumed to be a fabrication and economic conspiracy of the capital owners (Eberl *et al.* 2021, Hughes and Machan 2021, Miller 2020, Petrovi 2020). Capital owners, rulers, and the media are the 'master' of the COVID-19 'stage'. This is a kind of asymmetrical interdependence, namely power relations between and among countries, nations, and social classes. (Antoniades 2008, Kasiyarno 2014). COVID-19 is a practice of domination or subordination that arises from relationships created by the powers (Straubhaar 1991).

The presence of COVID-19 is followed by social restriction policies that hamper the pace of world economic growth. The tourism sector as Indonesia's flagship is also completely paralyzed due to the operational ban on all modes of transportation (air, sea and land) globally. Churches, mosques, monasteries, and other religious activities are forcibly closed to prevent crowds. Government offices, educational institutions, and other service offices limit services to strict standards. Shopping centers, traditional markets, and malls are heavily guarded by police and soldiers. There is almost no interaction and communication during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sound of ambulance sirens picking up COVID-19 patients and delivering the bodies of those who died from COVID-19 can be heard almost every hour. A tense atmosphere under the shadow of death surrounds every second of human time. In pandemic conditions, everyone is forced to survive and persevere with all the resources they have; food, food, and shelter.

Economic survival is often associated with resources, production, and scarcity. Naturally, a person will produce goods/services that are considered scarce in the market to get a high price. For this reason, resources are needed to enable production activities to fulfill needs. Gilles offers the concept of humanitarian economic (Gilles 2018), where community members utilize the power of their local traditional and cultural values for

economic defense. Economic survival in business is the ability to innovate, business experience and access to a strategic network, access to affordable finance, ownership structure and aggregate financial performance. (Steinerowska-Streb *et al.* 2022). The community's economic survival ability is becoming stronger with the obstacles, challenges, disruptions, and disasters faced by the community.

## 2. Methodology

This research was based on a qualitative study that explains the ideas, behaviors and survival strategies implemented by tourism entrepreneurs after experiencing two massive disasters, namely the earthquake-18 and Covid-19. Data were collected using observation, interview and documentation methods. The observation was used to map the ideas, behaviors and survival strategies carried out by tourism businesses after the earthquake-18 and Covid-19. Interviews were conducted to find out more deeply the facts that occurred in the field by digging up information directly from tourism businesses. While documentation was carried out to support the data collected through observations and an interview.

The data analysis model used in this research is the Habermasian data analysis model. The analysis starts from the process of data collection, interpretation by individuals, and drawing conclusions by interpreting the truth in general. Data collection is performed by collecting data from observations, interviews, and documentation. Interpretation by individuals in the hermeneutic approach is performed by looking for the essence of a particular phenomenon. In this study, individual interpretation was done by the researcher through interpretation of what was said and done by the research subject during the interview process. The conclusion is made based on the interpretation of the general truth, meaning that based on the individual's interpretation, the researcher connects the interpretation or interpretation based on the truth that has been recognized by the majority.

## 3. Results and Discussions

### 3.1 Tourism and the Disasters in Lombok

Tourism, economics and development have a symbiotic-mutualistic relationship that supports each other (Cooper and Wahab 2001, Ivanov and Webster 2007, Mihalic 2013, Nizar 2015). The emergence of tourism opens up new economic opportunities, new labor force, increases the price of goods/services, increases the income of the community, and helps the community to achieve prosperity (Ivanov and Webster 2007, Ntibanyurwa 2006). This is why many countries have been developing the tourism industry (Kapiki 2012), and that is also the reason of West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia developing its tourism resources which cover natural tourism (sea, mountain, forest), cultural tourism, sport tourism, and religious tourism (Taqwiem *et al.* 2020).

Based on its potential, since 2010 the West Nusa Tenggara Provincial Government has developed the following programs; development of small islands tourism, development of Mandalika Special Economic Zone, development of Mount Rinjani global geopark tourism area, development of Mount Tabor tourism area, NTB as the center of world halal tourism development, and poverty alleviation through community based tourism (CBT) program (Syafuddin *et al.* 2023). Within 5 years, the West Nusa Tenggara government managed to maximize all the potential resources at its disposal to realize the above program which was marked by the increase in the tourist visits in West Nusa Tenggara.

Tourism development in West Nusa Tenggara province has been disrupted since the 2018 earthquake. The earthquake caused many losses in the form of damage to residences, school buildings, markets, shopping centers, tourist facilities and others. The physical damage above also had an impact on tourist services, because all stakeholders and resources were directed to physical repairs and the restoration of social life, economy, education and other sectors. Although there are no services for tourists, the number of visits to Lombok remains stable, both for tourism and social purposes. Throughout 2019, West Nusa Tenggara Province continued to make physical improvements, and was delayed by the arrival of COVID-19 at the end of 2019.

COVID-19 is a global disaster that has a direct impact on the tourism sector, especially with the 'travel restriction' policy in each country. As a result of the 'travel restriction' as many as 440 million trips were canceled in 2020 which resulted in a 93% decrease in the number of visits and a loss of USD 440,000,000. In the history of global tourism, COVID-19 is the worst condition that has an impact on the global economic downturn (Ivanov and Webster 2007, UNWTO 2020).

Statistical data on visits to West Nusa Tenggara in the early years (2015) of tourism development can be seen in the following table.



Table 1. Number of tourist visits in Lombok 2014-2022

Year	Foreign visitor	National visitor	Total
2014	752.306	876.816	1.629.122
2015	1.149.235	1.061.292	2.210.527
2016	1.404.328	1.690.109	3.094.437
2017	1.430.249	2.078.654	3.508.903
2018	1.204.556	1.607.823	2.812.379
2019	1.550.791	2.155.561	3.706.352
2020	39.982	360.613	400.595
2021	11.890	827.325	839.215
2022	126.539	1.249.756	1.376.295

The table above shows an average increase in visitor numbers of 20%-40% each year. The 2018 earthquake had no significant impact on the number of visitors. The decline in visits decreased drastically in 2020, especially after the 'social distancing' and 'travel restriction' policies. This decline in the number of visits has an impact on the economic collapse of tourism businesses in West Nusa Tenggara.

### 3.2 Disaster, Government Policy, and Economic Recovery of Tourism Entrepreneurs

Physical losses in the tourism sector due to the earthquake were estimated at USD 4,990,958. Several hotels, home stays, and fundamental tourism facilities in several tourist areas were completely destroyed, especially in the epicenter area of Mount Rinjani (Krisnahadi 2020). For 8 months, the community's tourism economy was not running well, adjusting to the emergency conditions of the earthquake disaster.

Likewise, the economic situation during a pandemic will simultaneously cause a decrease in people's purchasing power (Ngadi *et al.* 2020), where the circulation of money in society becomes less, at the same time the level of production of goods also becomes very limited which results in a trade deficit in the economic cycle (Albuquerque *et al.* 2020, Yeh 2021).

In an effort to minimize the impact of the earthquake and covid-19 on the economy, the concept of strategic policy (survival) created by the government to safeguard people's purchasing power. The government's efforts to restore the economy after the earthquake and covid-19 were carried out by making recovery policies that were both physical and non-physical in nature. Physical recovery such as reconstruction of damaged buildings, direct and indirect financial assistance, and fiscal incentives. While non-physical such as trauma center activities and skills training.

Government policies for the economic recovery of post-earthquake communities consist of:

- The life insurance assistance issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs amounted to Rp. 89,364,300,000. Assistance was given to 297,881 people of West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) who had been impacted by the earthquake.
- Reconstructing community buildings damaged by the earthquake through Presidential Instruction No. 5 of 2018 which was followed up with Governor Regulation No. 35 of 2018 on the 2018-2019 earthquake reconstruction action plan.
- Providing relaxation of credit and finance for earthquake-affected communities with POJK No. 45/POJK.03/2017 concerning Special Treatment of Bank Credit or Financing for Regions Affected by Natural Disasters.
- Providing tax incentives for earthquake victims through Decree of the Director General of Taxes Number KEP-209/PJ/2018 concerning Taxation Policies in Connection with the Earthquake Natural Disaster on Lombok Island.
- Providing entrepreneurship skills training for earthquake victims by the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection.
- Conducting post-disaster industrial development and coaching activities by the Ministry of Industry through the Directorate General of Small, Medium and Miscellaneous Industries. The capital stimulus was provided through the NTB Cooperative and MSME Office (Maryanti *et al.* 2019).
- Government Assistance to MSEs by the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs.

While the government policies in restoring the people's economy during the COVID-19 pandemic are:

- Law No 2 of 2020 on the Stipulation of Government Regulation in lieu of Law Number 1 of 2020 on State Financial Policy and Financial System Stability for Handling the Covid-19 Pandemic and/or in the

Context of Facing Threats that Threaten the National Economy and/or Financial System Stability into Law.

- Providing tax relief through Minister of Finance Regulation No. 23/PMK.03/2020, concerning the Tax Incentives for Taxpayers Affected by the Corona Virus.
- Providing for the relaxation of health insurance payments through Presidential Regulation Number 64 of 2020 concerning relaxation of BPJS health payments.
- Providing education operational costs through Directorate General of Higher Education Circular Letter Number 302/E.E2/KR/2020 which regulates the authority for educational institutions to provide credit subsidies for students who need internet connections.
- Developing community work competencies by providing pre-employment funds through Presidential Regulation Number 36 of 2020 concerning Work Competency Development through the Pre-Employment Card Program.
- Social safety net programs for low-income communities and economic stimulus for SMEs through NTB Governor Regulation No. 22 of 2020 on General Guidelines for Handling COVID-19.
- Provision of assistance for wage subsidies to BPJS Labor participants by the NTB Manpower and Transmigration Office.

### 3.3 Survive Strategies of Tourism Entrepreneurs After Earthquake-18 and COVID-19

Tourism economic sector activities in Lombok due to the earthquake and COVID reduced regional income, tourism sector workforce reduction, dismissal of workers, decreased income in the tourism support business sector, the closure of culinary businesses, souvenirs, travel, and several other businesses that support tourism. As a result, many people have lost their jobs, sources of income, and because of this the impact on reducing the workforce in the tourism sector, decreasing the income of businesses in the tourism sector, and decreasing the quality of life of the community. In the above conditions, tourism service businesses are required to survive in meeting their needs. With the help of government policies related to financial relief as described above, service entrepreneurs carry out survival strategies in meeting their needs. Some of the strategies that tourism entrepreneurs in Lombok take are as follows:

- Diversification of income. Tourism entrepreneurs who have various sources of income will find it easier to survive. Other sources of income will replace sources of income from the tourism sector that were lost due to the earthquake and Covid-19.
- Switching professions as traders. For employees and tourism business owners who set aside some of the income in savings and investments, divert their savings and investments as initial capital to trade; clothing, basic necessities, fast food, and others according to their abilities, interests, knowledge and networks. Due to pandemic conditions, many have chosen to sell online with COD and transfer models.
- Shaping the entrepreneurial mentality and spirit of family members. In general, the family economy of tourism businesses in Lombok is supported by the income of the husband/wife from the work they do. Because of the dismissal of workers, the source of family income automatically becomes null. Because of this condition, the mentality and spirit of the members are shaped naturally to survive. The mentality and spirit of family members was shaped by giving them economic responsibility in fulfilling family needs with a unique job distribution model.
- Reducing the cost of shopping for clothing, food, and shelter, because Tourism workers and business people are identical with a glamorous look. With the paralysis of economic activity in the tourism sector, tourism economy entrepreneurs reduce the financial burden at all levels of needs and only focus on fulfilling primary needs. With this model, tourism entrepreneurs in Lombok are able to reduce costs, and survive in disaster situations.
- Utilizing government policies in disaster management. Some government policies as mentioned earlier are utilized by tourism entrepreneurs to get financial relief in relation to financing institutions and tax obligations. The government also issued a policy on post-earthquake and covid-19 education fee assistance.
- Utilizing relationships and friends. One of the advantages of having relationships and friends is that they can help in difficult times. Tourism entrepreneurs utilize relationships and friends to find new jobs when their old jobs are gone.

## Conclusion

Disaster is undesirable for everyone, but everyone is required to adapt to all changes that may occur; social, climate, politics, earthquakes, floods, and others. Everyone in society was required to survive with all the resources they have; social, moral, and intellectual in disaster conditions. Tourism as a sector that is sensitive to change requires entrepreneurs involved in it to prepare themselves with change. To strengthen the resilience of economic survival must also be supported by regulations that favor the sustainability of tourism development.

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## Credit Authorship Contribution Statement

The main idea of the research was conceived by **Muh. Baihaqi**, developed together with **Muh. Salahuddin** through the development of the theory required in the research. The methodology was developed together with **Muh. Baihaqi**, **Muh. Salahuddin**, and **Nurrahmah**. Data collection and research investigation were conducted with all the authors. Writing the research data report was conducted by **Dewi Sartika** and **Nurhilaliati**, reviewed by **Muh. Salahuddin** and edited by **Muh. Baihaqi**. Final validation of the research was conducted by **Nurhilaliati** and **Dewi Sartika Nasution**.

## Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

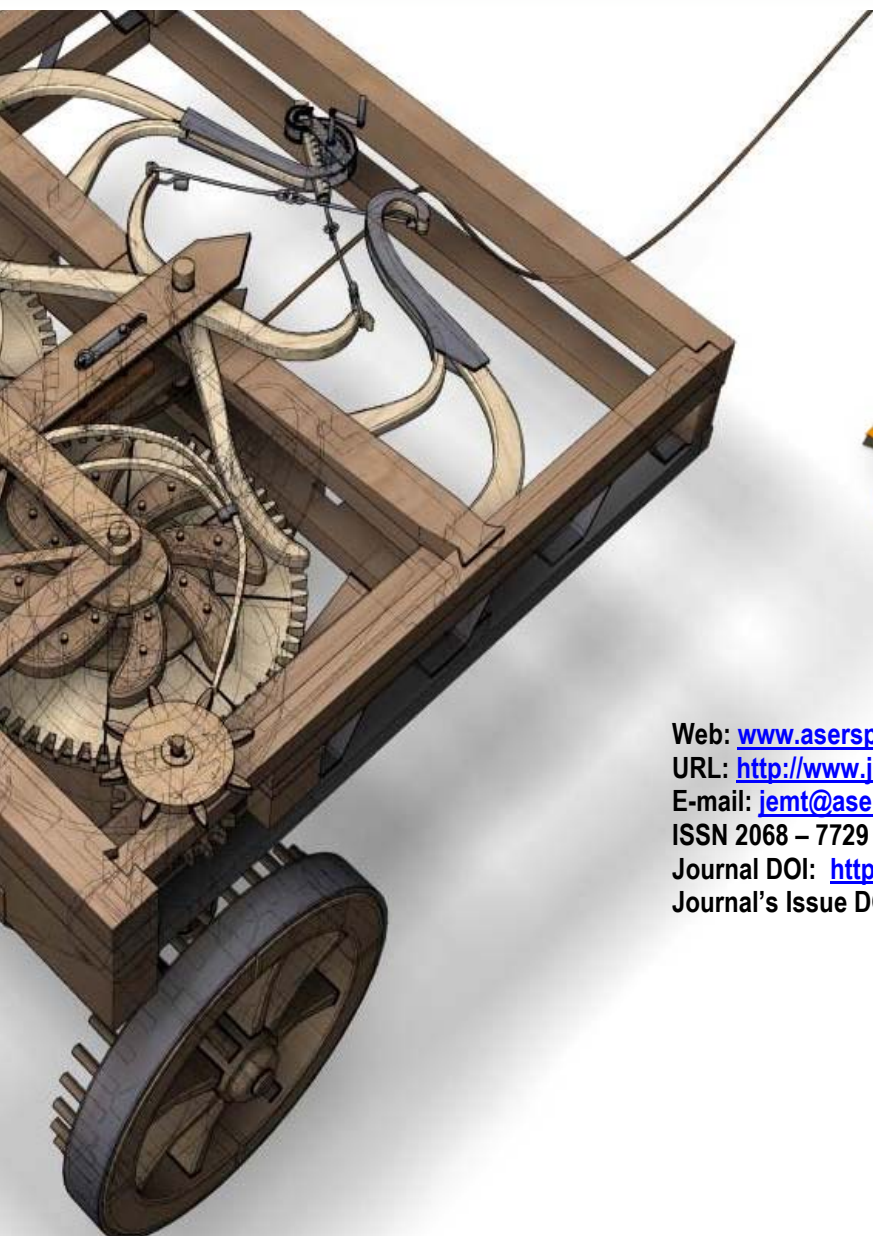
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