

Preface

Established in April 2016, Wakayama University's Center for Tourism Research (CTR) aims at positioning itself as a leading tourism research hub in the Asia Pacific region to enhance values and responsibility in tourism. Following this general aim, Wakayama Tourism Review (WTR) was first published in 2021 to disseminate and highlight the research studies carried out by CTR researchers based in Japan and abroad.

The present volume 4, featuring 11 original research works authored by CTR Members and Visiting Fellows, reflects the diversity and richness of the members' studies, articulated in 3 Research Units: Management, Community, and Culture & Heritage. In these pages, the reader will find theoretical and empirical academic discussions on the potential of astrotourism for regional revitalization, the Metaverse and virtual spaces, marine wildlife conservation, travelogue narrative analysis, tourism ethics, and migration communities, among other relevant topics. It is the sincere hope of CTR's authorities and the editorial team that this collection of short research communications will be of interest to academics, tourism stakeholders, and students.

Lastly, we would like to extend our deep gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and editorial team for collaborating in the current issue. We look forward to future issues featuring novel research in tourism studies and connecting domestic and international researchers in support of CTR's mission.

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