

# ESSAY IN TOURISM, INTER-REGIONAL DISPARITY, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANDA NUGROHO

Tourism has been considered as a powerful tool for economic development in many countries because it can be a main source of income, employment, and foreign exchange. However, The distribution of tourism benefits remains a real challenge for policy makers in the developing world. For instance, empirical evidence from recent literature shows that the impact of tourism on poverty and inter-regional economic inequality was mixed. This research seeks to understand the impact of tourism on poverty and inter-regional income disparity in Indonesian regions. This research develops a dynamic-multi region Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) tourism model and a regional Tourism Satellite Account's (TSA) for Indonesia. By modelling tourism as an independent activity in the regional database, the CGE model used in this research could capture the two-way interaction between tourism and other industries in the regional economies explicitly. Results of this research will contribute to academic debate on development and inter-regional policies for tourism. The research will also assist the policy makers of the Indonesian Government to explore policy options in tourism to overcome the social and political instability of the regional poverty and regional income disparity.

Supervisors: Associate Professor Tien Pham and Dr Jen-Je Su.

Email: [anda.nugroho@griffith.edu.au](mailto:anda.nugroho@griffith.edu.au)