Tourism Typologies and Satisfaction Level of Inbound ASEAN Tourists: Perspective from Malaysia

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Abstracts

Currently, tourism industry is increasingly becoming a vital catalyst for several Associations of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for its economic development and contribution towards the countries’ growth. Malaysian tourism industry is no exception to this and considered as the major source and the biggest contributor towards its economic growth. Malaysia’s each tourism typologies have always something new to offer for every types of inbound tourists visiting Malaysia, with a diverse and memorable experience through their tourism components. Malaysia’s ASEAN tourism market sector is the biggest tourism market when compared with the rest of the world, it has reached 27 million tourist arrival per year. With its huge number of incoming tourists, Malaysia has segmented its tourism industry in four major types of tourism to offer and those are highly regarded from the beginning of Malaysian tourism industry; explicitly as gastronomical tourism, medical tourism, leisure tourism and even business tourism have their own elite way of providing satisfying experience to every individual tourists visiting Malaysia. Current research is focusing towards assessing the factors including; socio cultural environmental impacts, tourism promotion and travel motivation, those are affecting the satisfaction level of inbound ASEAN tourists in Malaysia; thus identifying how each tourism typology moderates the satisfaction level and destination loyalty that Malaysia’s different tourism typologies have to offer. A self-administered quantitative survey was used to collect the data from the tourists at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA). A total of 320 questionnaires were distributed to the tourists at the departure hall of KLIA, whereas only 206 questionnaires were returned representing a response rate of 64%. Judgmental sampling was used to draw the sample from the inbound ASEAN tourists for this study. A Partial Least Square based Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) approach was used in this study to assess the model; further, a multi-group moderation analysis was performed to assess the influence of tourism typologies on the satisfaction and loyalty level of the tourists. The results of the study show a significant relationship between socio cultural environmental impacts; tourism promotion; travel motivation and tourist satisfaction and further with the destination loyalty. Four highly regarded Malaysian tourism typologies moderation effect were calculated through four different model stances; indicating that Malaysian leisure tourism, medical tourism and business tourism have impressive positive influence towards the ASEAN tourists’ satisfaction level and their loyalty towards Malaysia a tourism destination. Whereas, the gastronomical tourism has relative influence on the satisfaction and loyalty level of the tourists. Therefore, advisedly the Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB) and the development of tourism in Malaysia need to pay attention to develop and maintain better infrastructure and should widen the variety of gastronomical offerings so that a positive perception of Malaysia’s image and value can be developed to create positive influence on the ASEAN tourists’ satisfaction and their loyalty towards Malaysia as destination for a diverse tourism components offering with a memorable experience contributor within the ASEAN regions countries.

Keywords: Tourism Typology; Travel Indicators; Tourist Satisfaction; Destination Loyalty; ASEAN; Malaysia

I. INTRODUCTION

Malaysia tourism sector is a big tourism market amongst all Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, as Malaysia has reached more than 25 million tourists arrival per year global inbound. With the big tourism market itself, Malaysia has many different segments in tourism industry. It can be separated into food tourism, medical tourism, cultural tourism and even business tourism has become even larger. In fact, there are not many countries offered a vast attracting points together in tourism world. With the limited amount of information available about what is behind the fast growing Malaysian tourism, this study will be conducted as a reference to know more details about factors (push and pull factors, government act, etc.) related to the growth of inbound ASEAN tourists in Malaysia. ‘New political economy’ that began to affect the tourism industry during the early 1990s had also influence Malaysia. In context of ASEAN countries, Malaysia is one of the countries which has a remarkable number of tourist arrival and tourist receipt. As many countries are contributor to Malaysian tourism industry, it is noticed that Malaysia’s ASEAN neighboring countries are the biggest contributor until now, as for example Singapore. Singapore has hold the record of the highest number of inbound tourists to Malaysia for many years. Tourism in Malaysia is divided into many sectors that are managed by public and obviously private establishments. Both of the parties run their own business on different areas of tourism (medical, MICE, gastronomic tourism, etc.)

This paper aimed to assess the service satisfaction of inbound ASEAN tourists those have experienced different tourism services during their visit to Malaysia. In order to assess that we have used a quantitative survey based approach. Consequently, a partial least square based software namely as SmartPLS 3.2.3 used to assess the hypotheses. Further, the
paper intended to make few important contributions in regards to suggestions for development and implications for destination marketers in different Malaysian tourism typologies; especially in field of business tourism, medical tourism and gastronomical tourism

II. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A. Tourism in Malaysia

Plog (1987) has made a point that developing a master could protect the beauty and attractiveness of a destination, while still meeting the needs of travelers [1]. This requirement is fundamental to all groups concerned with travel and tourism, such as visitors’ associations, developers, hotels, and airlines and cruise ship companies. Consequently, Malaysia has been focusing on developing many more attractions in act to attract more tourists to visit Malaysia. The pull factors for tourists, it is not enough to simply have a tourist’s attraction, and government and private sector have to participate in the development of the tourism attraction. Malaysia had implemented many plans that emphasized on developing a sustainable tourism on the country. It has proven that Malaysia’s main target are tourists from ASEAN neighboring countries, as Singapore to be the most contributor on tourist arrival from year to year followed by other ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Thailand and Brunei) in top 5. There are a lot of aspects that implied to the growth of tourism industry, through all of the aspects, satisfaction would be met. Satisfaction is the overall point of view from the customer by evaluating the service provided to his / her by the establishment. Other countries visitors are also attracted by the seminar and conference together with different cultural events in Malaysia. Countries that sharing border are also tend to be positively related on demand of tourism, the other factor that supporting this is when the two countries have the same language, it is more convenient to travel to a country that has same language. Tourism promotions are also more focused on neighboring countries for example ASEAN. There are many benefits offered in Malaysia as some fellow ASEAN countries such as visa.

B. SocioCultural Environmental Impact

A high number of tourists are also categorized in high spending tourist and inbound tourists to Malaysia had a high interest in Malaysia gastronomic tourism. Since, the top inbound tourist in Malaysia is held by neighboring ASEAN countries (Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and Thailand) than most of ASEAN tourists in Malaysia have a high expectation on having good food throughout their journey with a right price and higher quality. ASEAN tourists have a close connection with sunlust type of motivation, the lack of better amenities and several other better purposes in their own country. Like the case of medical tourism in Malaysia, the government really supported the industry and taking more and more medical tourists from other ASEAN countries, from example Indonesia. It has clarified that the medical tourism competition has become very intense [2]. Ministry of Health in Malaysia did not impose any restrictions other than advertisement guidelines. Since the establishment of the inter-ministerial National Committee for Promotion of Medical and Health Tourism in 1998, Malaysia medical tourism has a support in the form of promotion, tax incentive, fee packaging, accreditation and packaging [3] As for the easiness of that, many ASEAN medical tourists visit Malaysia especially concentrated places like Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Melaka. Indonesian tourists would prefer to have medical treatment in Malaysia because of the price imposed is might be lower than their own local hospitals and the service provided definitely better than back in their country. Although shopping is rarely mentioned as a main reason for travelling, perhaps shopping is the most universal tourist activity and a great economic importance to local merchants. As shopping is contributing a big amount on tourists’ receipts, in 2009 Shopping had contributed 28% into the total tourists’ receipts.

C. Tourism Promotion

Malaysia has taken the right path to concentrate on neighboring ASEAN countries since they can really generate a big amount of inbound ASEAN tourist throughout years and much massive tourist receipt from year to year. As Malaysia promoting their tourism with Malaysia Truly Asia tagline, the importance of advertising and the affect it has on the Advertising must present the area to be visited as “the – place to - visit”, the benefits if any, and positive images of the area, as well as and modifying the travelers’ behavior, for example, purchasing the memorabilia created by the venders of the sites visited [4]. Therefore, it is a necessity, that the tourism professional use an optimal method of advertising to achieve his/her goals. An influencing promotion of tourism could use a slogan and or a logo. The motto of the logo helps clarify the visitors understanding and purpose of the agency’s trip and itinerary, for example, religious, cultural, etc.[4]. By the existence of strong advertising by Malaysia, many of pull factors got published globally and many of tourists experience the actual interesting things in Malaysia. One of the strongest aspects in Malaysia tourism is food tourism.

D. Travel Motivation

Tourist as an individual or group itself has certain psychology pattern. Tourist will have a psychological behavior to find benefit from recreational travel and to escape from routines and stressful environment and seek for opportunities to obtain psychological rewards. Mannel and Iso-Ahola argue that people are tending to be more motivated to seek leisure or tourist activities in order to both leave behind personal or interpersonal daily life problems and obtain personal or interpersonal rewards [5]. As ASEAN countries, visiting fellow country in the same organization is not required visa and this factor is one of the pull factors for fellow ASEAN tourist to visit each other. It is agreed that travel motivation together with psychological motives (push factor) and external motives (pull factor) positively affecting tourist satisfaction. Malaysia also has made several pull factors for the tourist to visit Malaysia, as for example, allowing foreign tourist to enter by the means of visa on arrival especially for medical patient. Every tourist will have their own mindset on what to motivate and demotivate them to travel to places. There are two fundamental processes of motivation, which are wanderlust and sunlust [6]. Wanderlust can be defined as the desire to exchange the known
for the unknown, to leave things familiar and to go and see different places, people and cultures or relics of the past in places that famous for their historical monuments and associations or for their current fashions and contributions to society. As for sunlust, a type of travel, which depends on the existence elsewhere of better amenities for a specific purpose than available in the domicile, it is prominent with particular activities such as sports and literally the search for the sun.

III. MALAYSIAN TOURISM TYPOLOGIES

A. Business Tourism

MICE industry is also growing really fast in Malaysia. As in fact, MICE sector qualified as one of the fastest growing industry worldwide. In addition, MICE sector also generate direct and indirect income for a country [7]. It consists of many different components, including: exhibitions, incentive, meeting, trade show, seminar, conventions and conferences. All of its activities requires many cooperation with other players, for the likes of transport (international or domestic), accommodation, pre and post event touring, audiovisual services, convention centers, or exhibition facilities [8]. Kuala Lumpur is one of the strongest business tourism destinations other than Bangkok and Jakarta. MICE (Meeting, Incentive, Convention and Exhibition) sector consists of related forms of meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions activities altogether with conferences, congresses and trade show. This sector has been taken as one of the most dynamic and important sector of the tourism industry that focuses on business activities rather than leisure [9]. MICE market in Malaysia had contributed 30% of total tourism sector revenue. The contribution occurred when a group of business traveler visit Malaysia and spend money on an incentive trip. Business traveler spends 3 to 5 times higher than a normal leisure traveler on average. In terms of ASEAN, Malaysia is one of the strongest MICE market holders, even they are in the 7th in Asia Pacific ranking. Especially, Kuala Lumpur is one of the strongest and facilitated cities to hold MICE event.

B. Medical Tourism

Medical tourism is travelling activity of patients from one (the “home”) country to another (the “destination”) country for medical treatment [10]. Medical tourism or medical travel is the act of travelling to other countries to obtain medical, dental, and surgical care. Reasons pushing medical travel include lower healthcare costs as well as the search of expert in medical treatments, waiting times, safety and quality of care. Malaysia is one of the famous medical destination worldwide, amongst Brunei, Cuba, Colombia, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Israel, Jordan, Lithuania, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Malaysia has received about 698,000 medical tourists on 2012. The Ministry of Health stated that Malaysia had generated US$ 101.65 million from medical tourism sector in 2010 and it is expected to grow to about US$ 116.5 million in 2011. Neighboring ASEAN countries are also the biggest contributor into this segment of tourism. It was recorded that Singapore (72%) holds the highest place for medical tourists’ contributor and followed by Indonesia (10%). The majority of the patient will go to Penang (61%), Malacca and Kuala Lumpur hold 19% and 11% respectively [11]. Ormond (2011) had also discovered that Indonesians has consideration about Malaysia medical tourism is within reach physically and economically than the national alternative which requires a flight to Jakarta with total costs equal to or greater than in Malaysia, Penang and Malacca provide healthcare services critical for the Indonesian island of Sumatra [11].

C. Gastronomic Tourism

Culinary, gastronomic or gourmet tourism is really closed definition for food tourism [12, 13], which Food tourism is known as travelling to certain food events or visiting a particular restaurant for the traveler to experience the dishes offered [12]. In 2002, Malaysia was in the top fifteen countries in the world to visit by WTO. According to Bessiere [14]; Hall and Sharples [12] Long [13], nowadays tourists are travelling with a mean of finding and experience different kind of food that is a signature of the destination and as a result, food tourism in a wide point of view globally has become as a pull factor in destination marketing. Furthermore, the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) has planned for innovative food differentiation based on the specialties of states, regions and communities to attract tourist to enjoy local delicacies. The states of Melaka, Penang, Perak, Sarawak and Sabah could be highlighted as “the states for gastronomy routes”. Specific information about Malaysia’s culinary offerings is important [15]. Since food can provide a more enjoyable holiday atmosphere and is unmistakably a plus for the tourism industry. Hence, with such an exciting diversity of food, Malaysia should be taken as the destination to enjoy the art of gastronomy. Malaysian gastronomy should be considered important when promoting local destinations. Malaysian cuisine is being introduced to the globally, which represents a mix of Chinese, Malay and Indian cooking through the “Malaysia Kitchen”, simultaneously helping to establish side industries like the production of spices for the dishes.

D. Tourism Satisafaction and Loyalty

Bigne et al. (2001) defined a revisit activity of a tourist is the outcome of the satisfaction level experienced during the visit [15]. Satisfaction model is the most well-known structure to conclude the revisit intention of a tourist. Satisfaction exist when the initial expectation is beaten by the actual condition. On the contrary, Parasuraman (1990) indicated that if performance underrated requirements, it would create dissatisfaction on a person, which will cause further disappointment. From tourist point of view, it will bring the same concept because they are subscribers to the services provided by the tourist destination [16]. Other influencing factors could be in the matter of number of previous visit [17, 18] or quality related experienced during the last visit [19, 20, 21, 22]. Immigration of Malaysia had publicized that 72.8% inbound tourist to Malaysia are from ASEAN neighboring countries, which are Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam. It is more cost efficient to retain a revisiting traveler rather than influenced new traveler visit a country. There are many factor affecting the satisfaction level of a tourist in travelling activities. Tourist attraction in the destination, beauty of the landscape, culture and hospitality services provided by the hotel staffs, quality of the food and
beverages served and even the friendliness of local citizens are some of the factors that are really giving an impact on the overall tourist satisfaction. Malaysia has more amusement facilities compared to others, cheap and various accommodations and tour packages, health and hygiene tourism attractions and also varieties religions live together peacefully. If the performance cannot match visitor’s expectation, it can be predicted they will not give a second visit. Satisfaction is one of the most important things for customer’s mental state, whether they will decide to visit again or not. In tourism field it is often said as travel satisfaction, which is the level of satisfaction of a tourist gained throughout services that they experienced during the time of visit [23].

IV. HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT

In order to achieve the aim and objectives four hypotheses are being developed in order to understand the tourists’ level of satisfaction with tourism services across three major tourism typologies. The four hypotheses are as follows;

H1. Socio cultural environmental impact is positively related to tourist satisfaction with services among all tourism typologies.

H2. Tourism promotion is positively related to tourist satisfaction with services among all tourism typologies.

H3. Travel motivation is positively related to tourist satisfaction with services among all tourism typologies.

H4. Tourist satisfaction with services is positively related to destination loyalty among all tourism typologies.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Research Instrument

To measure the different tourism typologies effect size on the inbound Asian tourists’ satisfaction level; factors such as socio cultural environmental impacts, tourism promotion and travel motivation were found to be the most appropriate measures. Tourist satisfaction with services was measured using three items [17]; These variables were measured using a five-point Likert scale starting from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

B. Sampling and Data Collection

The primary target population for this current study was limited to those tourists are coming from ASEAN region and had stayed in Malaysia during their visit purpose. The data for this study was being collected through face-to-face interaction with the tourist at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (KLIA2) at the departure hall after taking the permission from the airport authority. The KLIA2 was selected due large pool of inbound and outbound ASEAN tourist travelling in Malaysia using low cost carrier airlines. A self-administered survey was being used for this study through a non-probability judgmental sampling technique. The sample size for this study was collected over three weeks through a distribution of 320 questionnaires at different times of the day. In order to reduce biasness, the survey instrument was being explained to the outbound tourists along with its purpose. A total accumulated number 206 questionnaires were found to be usable for this study and further used for data analysis. Out of 206 respondents, 55.3% were males and 44.7% were males. Majority of them aged between 16-25 years (61.2%) followed by 26-35 years (19.4%) and 14.6% were aged between 36-45 years. There was mix between the respondents but it was found 55.3% (114) respondents were from Indonesia followed by 14.6% were from Singapore and 7.8% were from Thailand.

VI. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The collected data was analyzed using SPSS Statistics v23 and SmartPLS-SEM (Partial Least Square) 3.2.3. As suggested by Hair et al. (2013) [24] and Ringle et al. (2005) [25] to measure the model PLS algorithm and bootstrapping method were used to measure the measurement model and structural model. The measurement model was assessed for convergent validity.

A. Measurement Model

Through analyzing factor loadings, composite reliability (CR) and average variance extracted (AVE) (Hair et al., 2006) the measurement model was analyzed in Table 1, which shows all the item loadings have exceeded the recommendation value of 0.6 (Chin, 1998).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Loadings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Socio Cultural Environmental Impact (AVE* = 0.545; Composite Reliability* = 0.878)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCEI1</td>
<td>Malaysia as a country always creates favorite image to me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCEI2</td>
<td>Malaysia facilities in process of different modernization in tourism services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCEI3</td>
<td>Malaysia’s different tourism encourages pride in local arts, crafts, and cultural expressions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCEI4</td>
<td>Offered tourism in Malaysia satisfies my visit experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCEI5</td>
<td>Malaysian tourism encourages environmental protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCEI6</td>
<td>Malaysian tourism promotes environmental value based tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism Promotion (AVE* = 0.589; Composite Reliability* = 0.851)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP1</td>
<td>I found tourism services in Malaysia as same as it is being promoted in my country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP2</td>
<td>Malaysia do promote their different types of tourism products and services in my country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP3</td>
<td>I get information regarding different tourism products and services offered by Malaysia easily in my country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP4</td>
<td>Malaysian tourism promotions have always something new to offer every time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Motivation (AVE* = 0.508; Composite Reliability* = 0.852)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM1</td>
<td>I find mental relaxation when I am travelling to Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM2</td>
<td>Different tourism products and services offered here always motivates me to travel to Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM3</td>
<td>I travel to Malaysia for a change of pace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further, composite reliability values those represent to what point the construct indicators indicate the latent construct, exceeds the recommended value of 0.7 [24] and the values of average variance extracted also exceeded the recommended value of 0.5 [24] reflecting the overall degree of variance explained by the latent constructs.

Consequently, the next step was to assess the discriminant validity, refereeing to ‘the extent to which the measures are not a reflection of some other variables’ instead its indicated by the low correlation between measures [26]. The Table 2 below shows the square root of the AVE (diagonal values) of individual construct, larger than its corresponding correlation shows the square root of the AVE (diagonal values) of average variance extracted also exceeded the recommendation value 0.7 [24]. The Table 2 below shows the square root of the AVE (diagonal values) of individual construct, larger than its corresponding correlation shows the square root of the AVE (diagonal values) of average variance extracted also exceeded the recommendation value 0.7 [24]. The next step was to assess the discriminant validity, refereeing to ‘the extent to which the measures are not a reflection of some other variables’ instead its indicated by the low correlation between measures [26]. The Table 2 below shows the square root of the AVE (diagonal values) of individual construct, larger than its corresponding correlation shows the square root of the AVE (diagonal values) of average variance extracted also exceeded the recommendation value 0.7 [24]. The Table 2 below shows the square root of the AVE (diagonal values) of individual construct, larger than its corresponding correlation shows the square root of the AVE (diagonal values) of average variance extracted also exceeded the recommendation value 0.7 [24].

Finally, the measurement model shows a satisfactory level of convergent validity and discriminant validity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SCEI</th>
<th>TP</th>
<th>TM</th>
<th>TSS</th>
<th>DL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCEI</td>
<td>0.738*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>0.599</td>
<td>0.767*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM</td>
<td>0.500</td>
<td>0.617</td>
<td>0.717*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSS</td>
<td>0.534</td>
<td>0.705</td>
<td>0.636</td>
<td>0.699*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DL</td>
<td>0.701</td>
<td>0.724</td>
<td>0.693</td>
<td>0.633</td>
<td>0.726*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. *Square root (AVE) on the diagonal in boldface and construct correlations below the diagonal. SCEI = Socio Cultural Environmental Impact, TP = Tourism Promotion, TM = Travel Motivation, TSS = Tourist Satisfaction with Services, DL = Destination Loyalty

B. Complete Structural Model

A bootstrapping method was used to assess the structural model and hypotheses through SmartPLS 3.2.3 [26]. A 5000 iterations bootstrapping procedure was performed to examine the weightage of predictors with 206 cases being used for the measurement of the coefficient paths [28, 24]. Further, these coefficients paths were assessed according to the critical values of t-statistics; as referred by Hair et al. [24] in social science studies the path coefficients critical values of t-statistics as 1.96 (significance level 5%) and 2.57 (significance level 1%). With the aim of this research paper is to measure the effect of three predictors on tourist satisfaction across different tourism typologies a multi-group analysis (PLS-MGA) was performed to assess the path co-efficient variances for three different stances [29]; namely under business tourism, gastronomic tourism and medical tourism. In order to proceed with PLS-MGA the whole structural model have to tested with the entire sample size of the study the Figure 1 has been illustrated to demonstrate the path coefficients values based on entire sample size of this study. Additionally, in the further analysis of structural model, the hypotheses were tested with the corrected R2 values and path coefficients values including t-statistics values of the predictor variables. At the initial level tourist satisfaction with services level as an endogenous variable being explained 59.8% (R² = 0.598) by three exogenous variables namely as; socio cultural environmental impact, tourism promotion, travel motivation; consequently, at the second level tourist satisfaction with services as an exogenous variable predicted destination loyalty by 28.6% (R² = 0.286).

![Fig. 1. Results of Complete Structural Model (n=206)](image)

C. Partial Least based Multi Group Analysis (PLS-MGA)

Generally, through PLS modelling approach the test between two groups are common using the same parameters. As soon as if there are more parameters, similar to this current research where we have analyzed the satisfaction with services in respect to three different tourism (medical tourism, gastronomical tourism and business tourism) stances; the one question arises; does the parameter differs from group to group? In order two address that we have conducted PLS based multi group analysis (MGA) [29, 30]. The Table 3 below has been illustrated in more specific mode in order to facilitate the understanding of the analysis output. Hence, PLS path analysis model reveals that the model has met the criteria as suggested...
by Chin (1998) [28], and Hair et al. (2012) [24]. Subsequently, the analyses for different tourism typologies show that all the predictor variables’ composite reliability are above 0.708 followed by average variance extracted (AVE) above 0.50.

We proceeded further after assessing the constructs discriminant validity and convergent validity analyses applying criterion set by Fornell and Larcker (1981) [27]. The Table 3 shows the results of structural model assessment. A bootstrapping of 5,000 sample and the cases were based on the sample size specific to type of tourists’. In three different typologies of tourism the three predictors (SCEI, TP, TM) have achieved the R2 value 68.8% (0.688) in medical tourism, 53.2% (0.532) in gastronomical tourism and 64.4% (0.644) in business tourism; thus reflecting the predictability of independent variables towards the dependent variable. Consequently, showing that medical tourists satisfaction with services are significant (p < max. 0.01 and min. 0.05) among the four different hypotheses. Further, in gastronomical tourism subsample among the four hypotheses three hypotheses (H1, H3, H4) found to be highly significant (p < 0.01) whereas H2 found to be non-significant referring to ‘tourism promotion’ have no impact on tourist satisfaction. In business tourism consequence, it was found similar to the results of gastronomical tourism; where nearly three of the hypotheses (H1, H3, H4) managed to achieve high significance level (p < 0.1, 0.01) and H2 found to be non-significant in relation to tourism promotion towards tourists’ satisfaction with services.

VII. CONCLUSION & IMPLICATIONS

This study aimed to identify the level of satisfaction and destination loyalty of ASEAN tourists visiting Malaysia for different tourism purposes and majorly for medical tourism, gastronomical tourism and business tourism. The satisfaction level based on different tourism typologies with their services have received much attention within the researchers as well as among different country specific tourism service management authorities [31, 32]. However fewer studies have focused on identifying satisfaction with services across tourism typologies [33]. The results from this study reveals that several tourism typologies offered by Malaysia have different level of satisfaction towards its tourists’ base. The major variables for this study, such as; socio cultural environmental impacts, tourism promotion and tourist motivation were considered due to hedonic nature of tourist experiences pre and post of their travel. Beginning from choosing Malaysia due its tourism promotions and further intended pre-travel motivation towards visiting and lastly experiencing Malaysia’s socio-economic-cultural phenomena in their travel days; overall creating the hedonic experience this experience level found to be satisfactory based on the output of our study across three different tourism; medical tourism, gastronomical tourism and business tourism. The study fills the gap by investigating the service satisfaction of Malaysian tourism typologies towards inbound ASEAN tourists. According to the output of results, the major importance should be given in to promote the gastronomical tourism and business tourism across the ASEAN countries to attract more tourists to Malaysia by the destination marketers; which found to be similar studies conducted by Henderson (2008)[34]. In terms of revisiting Malaysia, the results indicate that affordable medical tourism attracts the ASEAN tourists for the second time while comparing to others it has higher relationship value between satisfaction and destination loyalty among the tourist. Where is in business tourism the tourists’ destination loyalty found to be the lowest comparing to others.

Consequently, from a pragmatic point of view the results offer important implications for Malaysian destination marketers in order to fine tune different strategies towards the development of different service offerings. The findings suggest the existence of tourist satisfaction level differences with different typologies of tourism offered by Malaysia. Identifying these differences provides various opportunities for destinations to shape their marketing techniques to influence the revisit intentions within the ASEAN tourists travel.
behavior. As from the results we have identified tourism promotion for gastronomical and business tourism resulted a non-significant relationship resulting a low satisfaction level among the inbound ASEAN tourists. For different destination marketers should make additional efforts to understand what causes these low satisfaction levels for these types of tourism promotional efforts towards the ASEAN tourists. The destination marketers should review the mix of activities offered for different tourism typologies within the destination.

The Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB) should be more attentive towards developing better infrastructure and should widen the variety of business possibilities and gastronomical offerings so that a positive perception of Malaysia’s image and value can be developed. Therefore, creating a positive influence on the ASEAN tourists’ satisfaction and their loyalty towards Malaysia as destination for a diverse tourism components offering and as a memorable experience contributor within the ASEAN region countries.

REFERENCES


