Committee: UNWTO 2

Topic: Sustainable tourism

Country: Philippines

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The UNTWO is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. It promotes tourism as a driver of **economic growth, inclusive development** and **environmental sustainability** and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide[[1]](#footnote-1). Sustainable tourism is important for the committee to address because it leads to the management of all resources in such a way that economic and social needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, and biological diversity and life support systems in a country. The Philippines cares about tourism because it plays an important role in the Philippines’ economy. Tourism affects the Philippines because it is a major source of job and consumer spending. Without that money, many areas of the Philippines would be economically depressed. In 2011, travel & tourism accounted for about 9% of the Philippines’ annual GDP.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The Philippines has experienced a dynamic increase in international and domestic tourism, but so far has not received as much tourism growth as many of its neighbors in Southeast Asia. The main tourist attractions in the Philippines are the Tubbatha Reef, San Agustin Church, Mayon Volcano, Malapascua Island, Puerto Galera, Chocolate Hills, Boracay and Banue Rice Terraces.[[3]](#footnote-3) Bohol has been identified by the Philippines at the national level as a key growth area for tourism, and also for a number of specific ecotourism products.

Making tourism completely sustainable is a complex process, especially in light of recent events in the Philippines. In November 2013, the Philippines were hit by the typhoon Haiyan, which killed many people and destroyed many coastal areas, including the important tourist area of Tacloban City. Now the Philippines are in the process of rebuilding and have a good opportunity to do so in a sustainable way. The problem now is that people think they cannot come to vacation anymore, while in reality only a small percent of the islands were damaged. The Philippines is currently promoting tourism in the unaffected areas because it needs that money for rebuilding efforts.

Foreign relations have had a significant impact on economic and social development in the Philippines. The evidence of foreign influence is found in the many development projects that the Philippines have with other countries like the Spain[[4]](#footnote-4).The Philippines has a very important agreement with Spain in regard to sustainable tourism which consists of Spain helping the Philippines to became a top country for tourism by increasing resources, applying new appliances, and promoting the country in a better and more extended way while also preserving human rights.

The Philippines believes other Asian or Pacific countries which share similar tourism or natural disaster problems should join together with the Philippines in bigger and stronger blocs to negotiate the general budget to include disaster relief in important tourist destinations as well as funding to develop more sustainable tourism. The Philippines also supports employing local people in an effort to increase the economy. The Philippines encourages the countries from the Pacific Zone to push for international laws that will improve tourism not so much in anti- infrastructural way, but more so in a personal one in ways such as increasing security, teaching global languages and promoting the tourism in each country.[[5]](#footnote-5) The Philippines suggests that other countries with coastal areas work together to reach an agreement that protects coastal regions and aquatic areas where tourism occurs in a way that preserves the ecosystems.

SOURCES:

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1. http://www2.unwto.org/content/who-we-are [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.eturbonews.com/31957/phllipphines-visitor-arrivals-9-percent [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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4. http://www.aecid.ph/pdf/Centro%20de%20documentaci%C3%B3n/Acta\_VCM.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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