

conferência

invtur

2012

**turismo
em tempos
de mudança**

conhecimento e práticas na construção de um novo rumo para o sector

EDITORIAL

It is a proud, and an honour, for the Journal of Tourism and Development to publish the refereed papers of the INVTUR 2012 International Conference, entitled *Tourism in times of change: Knowledge and practices paving the way for the future*.

It has become common place to state that tourism is amongst the world's largest industries, and also that its capacity to prompt development and boost social equity is enormous. In times dominated by deep economic recession and uncertainty about the way the world's economy will progress in the future, the role of the tourism sector seems to emerge reinforced. Tourism is one of the most prominent and powerful economic and social sectors; tourism is capable of boosting local and regional economies and promote forms of sustained development, because it underpins its development on a wide fabric of small interconnected companies and organisations; tourism is among the world's most important exporting sectors; and tourism is labour rather than capital intensive, which means that it has great capacity to create new jobs in times when unemployment has reached unthinkable rates and when this issue may undermine the future of the world's economy and society.

The tourism academy should be aware of the role tourism may play at the current world's critical phase. More than never, research ought to be reoriented and focused on the discovery of new forms of economic growth and social cohesion and enhancement. Tourism is a social science, and social sciences are about people, society and the citizens' life.

Tourism in times of change: Knowledge and practices paving the way for the future is the theme of the INVTUR 2012 conference. The event aims at operating as a discussion ground on the role tourism may play in times of crisis, and it also attempts to find out news ways of unveiling future directions for the world.

This second edition of the INVTUR conference doubles the size of the previous conference held at the University of Aveiro in 2010. For this year's conference, a total of 384 works (212 full papers, 152 extended abstracts and 20 posters) were submitted, coming from 28 countries. All submitted works underwent a careful double-blind review, conducted by 222 referees from all around the world. The Journal of Tourism and Development is publishing a total of 249 works (134 full papers, 101 extended abstracts and 14 posters), corresponding to a 64.8% rate of approval.

Parallel to the academic discussion, the INVTUR Conference includes an Innovation Forum (BIT), where 40 companies and organisations unveil new practices, policies, projects and educational programmes for the future of tourism. All this has been placed in a pavilion with an area of 1,800 square meters, organised in 53 stands.

While in 2010 the INVTUR Conference was launched and hosted by the University of Aveiro, this year's event is organised by a group of five institutions: University of Aveiro (Portugal), University of Bournemouth (UK), University of São Paulo (Brazil), the Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management (Dubai), and University of Goa (India).

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Chair of the Conference INVTUR 2012

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