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Fundamental Analysis of Significant Issues Regarding Development of “Arctic Tourism”

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Abstract

With the expansion of the Arctic Ocean routes due to the effects of global warming, the possibility of Arctic tourism development is now increasing. However, as typified by “overtourism,” (preventive) measures against the (future) negative impact of excessive tourism promotion have not been systematically discussed in the international community. Therefore, this study discusses the problems that arise with Arctic tourism development, including forecasting one, and proceeded with the analysis of the current situation for the purpose of extracting significant issues. As a result, the extracted issues were classified into eight categories for each field and arranged in a four-level scale. This study regards this analysis as the primary result, and it was confirmed by the main meeting on December 19, 2019 that it would be the basis for future ongoing research.

Key words: Arctic tourism, significant issues, issue classification, negative and positive aspects of tourism

1. Introduction

The purpose of this study is to extract the significant issues of Arctic which will be required of International society from the tourism perspective. Regarding this purpose, the problems that could arise when related countries promote Arctic tourism due to the expansion of the Arctic Ocean route, now and in the future, have been discussed at the meetings. These meetings were held four times at Hokkaido University with the several researchers from different specialized fields (Table 1).

Table 1 Participants at meetings

Date	Participants	
2019	Number	Specialized Fields
7/22	7	Tourism Development, Snow&Ice Tourism Creation, Industry-Academia-Government collaboration, Arctic Cruise, Architectural Environmental Studies in cold regions, International Cooperation in Tourism development, Polar Snow and Ice Observation, Cultural anthropology, Industrial creation, Human and society, Arctic Governance and policy, Nordic society and industry, Community-based Ecotourism
10/2	5	
10/29	4	
12/19 (main)	10	

2. Issue extracting research

2.1 Target of survey

The participants of the above-mentioned meetings have discussed about the several related document data

which refer to Arctic tourism (Table 2), especially about concrete issues or regulations.

Table 2 Target of survey

	Affiliation	Concrete document
1	WWF	Code of conduct for Arctic Tour Operators, Code of conduct for Arctic Tourists, etc
2	AC	Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) Best Practice Guideline
3	AECO	Visitor guidelines, Nine other different kinds of guidelines
4	IPTRN	Publications from the past 1 st to 6 th international conferences for polar tourism
5	U-Arctic	Arctic Tourism in Times of Change: Seasonality, etc
6	Others	Tourism Futures in the Arctic, etc

2.2 Result of fundamental analysis

The significant issues regarding Arctic tourism development which were extracted from the above documents were divided into two different dimensional classifications. For one, they were classified by the scale levels, and by the different categories for the other.

Firstly, these issues are divided into four scale levels, such as “Community,” “Country,” “International Society,” “Natural environment/Earth.” Secondly, those issues can be classified into eight different fields, such as “Local culture and indigenous people,” “Community,” “Tourism development,” “Academic

research,” “Code/Rule,” “Enlightenment/Education,” “Energy,” “Environment.” This study shows relatedly these two different classifications (Fig. 3).

Scale level	Issue's belonging field
Community	“Respect to local culture and indigenous people”
Country	“Prioritize community”
International Society	“Proper tourism development”
Natural Environment /Earth	“Academic research promotion”
	“Compliance to Code/Rule”
	“Awareness rising / Education”
	“Consideration for energy”
	“Environment protection”

Fig. 1 Classification of issues in different dimension

Regarding Fig 1, above-mentioned codes of conduct for Arctic tourism in WWF refers to mainly environment protection and its awareness rising. On the other hand, proper tourism development and academic research promotion, and compliance to code are mainly discussed in Best Practice Guideline in AMTP. Respect to local culture and indigenous people, prioritizing community are mainly referred in IPTRN (International Polar Tourism Research Network) and Arctic Tourism in Times of Change: Seasonality in U-Arctic.

It is found out that AECO (Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators) strongly regulates Arctic tourism activities in many aspects with 10 different guidelines. AECO obviously seems to be more serious than any other guidelines or regulations, which could be the next target of this further research.

3. Direction of further research

Based on all above, the following three vectors will be required of this further research;

- 1) This study will go deeper, focusing on more significant issues in reality, comparing both cases of west and east sides in Arctic.
- 2) This study will focus on discussing the issues about “Community” based on the advanced case study in Hokkaido as much as possible.
- 3) This study will refer to the issues in both of negative and positive aspects of tourism. For instance, issues as the measure which could protect the negative impact from tourism development, and issues as the potential which could solve the problems by the positive functions of tourism development.

4. Conclusion

This paper has suggested that the significant issues regarding Arctic tourism development, including forecasting one, were divided into two dimensional classifications, such as four scale levels and eight different fields. Based on this result, this study can go deeper, focusing on more precise analysis of community issues, comparison of west and east sides in Arctic, and negative and positive aspects of tourism. Eventually, it was confirmed that Arctic tourism should be discussed more systematically in the international community.

Acknowledgment

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Summary in Japanese

和文要約

「北極域観光」振興にかかる重要課題の基礎的分析

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地球温暖化の影響による北極海航路の拡大に伴い、北極域観光の可能性が高まっている。しかしオーバートーリズムに代表されるように、過度な観光振興による負のインパクトへの対策や予防策については、北極圏に関係する国際社会において体系的に議論されていない。そこで本研究は、北極域観光振興に伴い生じる問題について、予測を含めた議論を展開し、重要課題の抽出を目的とした現状分析を進めた。その結果、抽出された課題は分野毎に 8 分類され、かつ 4 レベルのスケールに整理されることが明らかになった。本研究は、これを第一次分析結果と位置づけ、今後の継続的な研究の基礎に置くことを 2019 年 12 月 19 日実施の本会議によって確認した。

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