

Investigating the Situation of Tourism Industry in D8 Countries in Line with Developing Cooperation in Tourism Services

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ABSTRACT

The issue of inter-territorial convergence throughout the world has become more common in line with trade liberalization and economic cooperation during recent years. Therefore, eight Islamic countries known as Developing Eight (Bangladesh, Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey) signed a cooperative treaty in 1997, in order to improve and develop their economical, commercial and political situation. The comparative studies indicate that the commercial exchanges between D8 Group and the countries out of the mentioned treaty has improved more than those inside the group, therefore, investigating the causes of such low motivation and undesired event, the identification of potential in-group and out-group tourism services and finding ways to develop and improve the tourism economics are all among the main purposes of this research. This is an applied research due to its purposes and as to the method, it's descriptive. In order to gather information and data for the research, the categorized information and data of national and international organizations and institutions were applied which were generally related to years 2004-2009.

The research results indicate that the share of (international) inbound tourism income from gross domestic product (GDP) is 6% in Iran, 7.4% in Egypt, 2% in Nigeria, 1% in Bangladesh, 9.5% in Malaysia, 5% in Pakistan, 3.2% in Turkey, and 1.6% in Indonesia.

KEYWORDS: Tourism, D8 Group, Inbound tourism, Economical indexes.

INTRODUCTION

After the end of World War II, the powers of Eastern and Western Blocs formed international political and financial organizations and institutions such as United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and other related organizations aiming to achieve economical growth and fight poverty. The constitution of World Trade Organization and World Tourism organization are among the most significant events of 20th century in line with Globalization. During recent years, the issue of inter-territorial convergence has become more common in line with trade liberalization in form of international organizations and inter-territorial economic and commercial cooperation, and such combinations and formations are generally provided in order to encounter problems due to globalization, support in-group trading and other social and economical relationships. Eight Islamic countries known as Developing Eight (Bangladesh, Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey) signed a cooperative treaty in 1997, in order to improve and develop their economical, commercial and political situation compared to global economics. The treaty signed by D8 Group which is considered a convergence treaty can be defined inter-territorial and essentially economically convergent due to the Geographical distance.

The investigation of economical cooperative treaties indicates that such treaties and cooperative activities have been performed perfectly between developed countries (North-North); between developed and developing countries (North-South) they were rather successful; and, between developing countries (South-South) such activities have been often unsuccessful. Although all the members of D8 Group are among developing countries, they are for sure in different levels of development in a way that sometimes, there is a great or even tremendous difference between the per capita incomes between different members of D8 countries.

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

Although the formation of D8 Group by eight Islamic developing countries aimed to help the members to develop their in-group commercial cooperation, the comparative studies indicate that the commercial exchanges between these countries and the ones out of D8 treaty has usually improved more than those between the D8

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members, thus, studying and investigating the causes of such low motivation and undesired event and the situation of macro-economic indicators and the potentials of tourism industry in members of the group, presenting some strategic techniques in order to support the convergence of D8 members and other Islamic countries through applying the tourism resources and products, are among the most significant purposes of this research. On the other hand, the issue of globalization is considered as a challenge for developing and undeveloped countries.

Questions of Research

The important question issued by this research which answered are sought by the researcher include:

Despite the 10 years that have passed since the formation of the group, are the countries which are the members of D8 taking adequate advantages of each other's tourism services mutually and multilaterally?

And some other questions that we hope that performing such research can be effective on improving and developing commercial cooperation especially due to in-group and even out-group tourism in the framework of D8 treaty.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

It wouldn't be possible to achieve scientific purposes, unless the research is performed through an exact methodology. In other words, the reliability of the research is not achieved its subject, but its method (Khaki, 2005, 155).

In order to investigate the economic-commercial situation of tourism services, this research has applied the library method along with descriptive-analytic studies on data and macroeconomic indicators due to the situation of D8 members; identifying the potential in-group and out-group tourism services and economical improvement and tourism development are also included in important porpoises of this research, therefore, the present research is an applied research due to its purposes and as to the method, it's descriptive.

Considering the method of the study, which is mostly library method, in order to gather required information and data for the research the categorized data and information of national and international organizations and institutions were used. The study of credible and updated documents and leads generally related to the recent years and in particular 2004-2009 were mostly applied in order to gather the required information. On the other hand the sample of data, information and macro-economic indicators of D8 countries were generally gathered from the statistical references of international organizations and institutions such as World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), UNCTAD, Organization Islamic Countries (OIC), and World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the national organizations of the members such as their central banks, institutes for trade and commerce studies and researches, and tourism ministries, and other organizations; the sample was described and analyzed and considering the type and quality of statistical data, different tables were provided to collect and summarize them in order to determine the preference and perform a ranking between the members of D8 Group through comparative methods.

The members of D8 Group including several Islamic developing countries started their activities in 1997 A.D. The aim of the formation of D8 was mostly economical and they tried to improve the commercial and economical situation of the member countries internationally, and develop new opportunities in commercial relationships, these aims were pursued regarding the principles based on peace, negotiation, cooperation, justice, equality and democracy. The order of D8 group is international or inter-territorial and the combination of its members confirms such concept. The cooperation and consultation among this group covers all the contexts including political accordance and counsel in international arena.

The total population of D8 Group member countries exceeded 972972168 in 2009 among which is about 14% of world population. The total gross domestic product of this group is about 3.7% of gross world product. Table 1 illustrates the situation of macro-economic indicators of D8 members in 2009:

Table 1: the situation of macro-economic indicators of D8 members in 2009

Number	The country	population	GDP (Milliard \$)	Per capita GPD (\$)	GPD growth percentage	GPD rank	Per capita rank
1	Bangladesh	156050883	242.4	1600	%5.6	8	8
2	Egypt	78866635	471.2	6000	%4.7	5	4
3	Indonesia	240271522	969.2	4000	%4.5	1	5
4	Iran	71454137	875	12900	%2.6	2	2
5	Malaysia	25715819	381	14800	%-2.2	6	1
6	Pakistan	174578558	449.3	2600	%2.7	4	6
7	Nigeria	149229090	357.2	2400	%5	7	7
8	Turkey	76805524	863.3	11200	%-5.6	3	3
9	Total	972972168	578.2	6937.5	%2.16		

Reference: World Development Indicators, World Bank (2009)/CIA, (2010)

According to table 1, the comparison of per capita gross domestic income ranking of D8 countries in 2009 indicates that Indonesia is the first, Iran is the second, Turkey is the third, and Pakistan, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria and Bangladesh are respectively in next ranks. In other words, according to the sums of row 9 in table 1, the rate of gross domestic product of all D8 Countries except Indonesia, Iran and Turkey is lower than the total average of the group.

As to the ranking of per capita income, the Malaysia is the first, Iran is the second, Turkey is the third and Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Bangladesh are respectively in next ranks. In other words, the sums of row nine in table 1 indicate that the per capita income of all D8 members except Malaysia, Iran and turkey is less than the average of the group.

According to the division of World Bank in world development reports, these countries can be divided into three groups based on their macro-economic indicators:

1. Those which export oil including Indonesia, Iran and Nigeria;
2. Those with a normal income including Pakistan, Turkey, Malaysia and Egypt;
3. Less developed ones which merely includes Bangladesh among these 8 countries.

By regarding the order of gross domestic products of these countries, the product structure and the share of divisions in their economy can be discovered. The tourism division has had the most share of gross domestic product in all 8 countries. As to the share of other divisions, there are some differences between these 8 countries. Among those which export oil (Indonesia, Iran and Nigeria) the Industrial division has the most shares after the service division. By and large, the share of industry is about 32% among the countries of D8 Group, half of which is due to the factory-made products while the share of agriculture is about 25% in this group.

RESULTS

Analyzing Status of D8 Tourism Industry

Here under, table 2 shows the rate of tourism income in D8 countries during years 2006-2008 along with their rank in the group. Regarding the column of the year and the rank in group for 2008, it is clear that the turkey is first with 25019 million \$, Malaysia is the second with 18553 million \$, the Egypt has maintained its third-place with 12104 million \$, and the lowest rate of income is related to Bangladesh with 91 million \$ which is in eighth-place one. Iran with 2196 million \$ has mentioned its fifth-place in group ranking. The data of the mentioned table indicate that despite the 40% increase in total income of group in 2008 compared to 2006, almost all of the member countries have maintained their places in the ranking during three previous years (before 2008) and the only change was the replacement of Bangladesh by Nigeria. In other words, the income of Nigeria has become more than Bangladesh which has replaced them.

Table 2: tourism income of countries of D8 Group during years 2006-2008 (million \$)

Number	Country	Year and the rank in group		Year and the rank in group		Year and the rank in group	
		2006	rank	2007	rank	2008	rank
1	Bangladesh	80	7	76	8	91	8
2	Egypt	8133	3	10327	3	12104	3
3	Indonesia	5458	4	6578	4	8547	4
4	Iran	1760	5	1950	5	2196	5
5	Malaysia	12280	2	17951	2	18553	2
6	Nigeria	51	8	340	7	380	7
7	Pakistan	919	6	912	6	915	6
8	Turkey	18520	1	20649	1	25019	1
total		45534	-	56621	-	64737	-

Reference: WTO, 2009 & World Development Indicators, World Bank, 2009

Here under, table 3 illustrates the number of international inbound tourists of D8 Countries during years 2006-2008 and the related ranks. According to the column of Year and the related rank to 2008, the turkey is in the first place with 26.300 million tourists, Malaysia is the second with 25.300 million tourists, Egypt has remained its third place with 12.800 million tourists, Bangladesh has the lowest number of (500000) inbound tourists and Iran has remained its sixth place with 2 million tourists. The data of the mentioned table indicates that despite the approximate 16.5% increase in total number of tourists in the whole group in 2008 compared to 2006, all the members has remained their places in ranking during three previous years (before 2008), and the only change was the replacement of Malaysia by Turkey. In other words, the number of international inbound tourists of turkey has become more compared to Malaysia which has replaced them.

Table 3: the number of international inbound tourists of D8 Countries during years 2006-2008 (million)

number	country	Year and the rank in group		Year and the rank in group		Year and the rank in group	
		2006	rank	2007	rank	2008	rank
1	Bangladesh	0.2	8	0.3	8	0.5	8
2	Egypt	9	3	11	3	12.8	3
3	Indonesia	4.9	4	5.5	4	6.2	4
4	Iran	2.7	6	2.2	6	2	6
5	Malaysia	25.3	1	28.3	1	25.3	2
6	Nigeria	3	5	2.6	5	2.8	5
7	Pakistan	0.9	7	0.8	7	0.8	7
8	Turkey	19.8	2	23.3	2	26.3	1
total		65.8	-	74	-	76.7	-

Reference: WTO, 2009 & World Development Indicators, World Bank, 2009

Here under table 4 illustrates the number of inbound tourists to Iran from other members of D8 Group during years 2004-2008. Because of the lack of a general in Iran to record the entry and exit of international tourists, the needed data were perforce extracted from WTO statistics, and as Iran doesn't present the statistical information about tourism to the mentioned organization according to TSA framework, no statistics is available for the years 2004-2007. According to the column related to 2008, about 95506 tourists has entered Iran from other members of D8 Group and according to column due to the ranking of members, Turkey with 69600 is in the first place, Pakistan with 17311 tourists is the second and Malaysia is the third with 2561 tourists. The least number (709) of inbound tourists is related to Nigeria in seventh place.

Table 4: the number of inbound tourists to Iran from other members of D8 Group during years 2004-2008

number	country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Rank in group
1	Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	1241	6
2	Egypt	-	-	-	-	1890	5
3	Indonesia	-	-	-	-	2194	4
4	Malaysia	-	-	-	-	2561	3
5	Nigeria	-	-	-	-	709	7
6	Pakistan	-	-	-	-	17311	2
7	Turkey	-	-	-	-	69600	1
total		No available statistic and information for years 2004-2007				95506	-

Reference: WTO, 2009 & World Development Indicators, World Bank, 2009

Hereunder, table 5 illustrates the number of outbound tourists from Iran to other members of D8 Group during years 2004-2008. According to the total number of outbound tourists in 2008, 1213112 tourists has traveled from Iran to other countries of D8 Group, among which, the turkey with 1134826 tourists from Iran is in the first place, the Malaysia is the second with 63165 ones and Pakistan is in third place with 14178 ones. It should be mentioned that the information related to Indonesia is not available in this table.

Table 5: the number of outbound tourists from Iran to other members of D8 Group during years 2004-2008

number	country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Rank in group
1	Bangladesh	337	345	266	231	1241	6
2	Egypt	881	929	749	988	1890	5
3	Indonesia	-	-	-	-	2194	-
4	Malaysia	11236	12309	18753	27215	2561	2
5	Nigeria	8929	9375	10513	-	709	4
6	Pakistan	8156	9107	11365	7405	17311	3
7	Turkey	628667	957171	865731	1058022	69600	1
total		658206	989236	907377	109386	1213112	-

Reference: WTO, 2009

Hereunder, table 6 illustrates the situation of some tourism indicators due to the countries of D8 Group during years 2004-2008. According to the column of indicator ranking based on the data related to 2008, the turkey is in the first place with 25.091 million \$, Malaysia is in the second place with 18.553 million \$ and Egypt is in the third place 12.104 million \$. According to this indicator, Iran is in fifth place with 2.196 million \$. The indicator of travel expense apart from transportation costs also indicates that turkey is in the first place with 21.951 million \$, Malaysia is in the second place with 15.277 million \$ and Egypt is in the third place 10.985 million \$. According to this indicator, Iran is in fifth place with 1.908 million \$. As to the index of inbound tourists, turkey is in the first place with 26.300 million tourists, Malaysia is in the second place with 25.300 million tourists and Egypt is in the third place 12.800 million tourists. According to this indicator, Iran is in sixth place with 12.800 million tourists.

The investigation of table 6 indicates that there is a significant relationship between the travel expenses and the duration of accommodation. In other words, the more travel expense, the less duration of accommodation, except from Egypt in which the duration of accommodation is still longer than all countries despite the high expenses of travelling which might be because of the existence of Historical places and works and the Arab tourists as well. On the other hand the data indicates that in some countries such as turkey, Malaysia and Egypt, the number of inbound tourists is still going up despite the high travel expenses and each tourist spends an average of 1000\$ per travel.

Table 6: the situation and comparison of some tourism indicators in D8 countries

D8 countries		year				The rank in 2008	
		2004	2005	2006	2007		2008
Bangladesh							
	The travel expenses including transport (million American Dollars)	76	79	80	76	91	8
	The travel expenses apart from transport (million American Dollars)	67	70	80	76	77	8
	The average duration of accommodation (day)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5		
	The number of inbound tourists (1000 ones)		----	200	300	500	8
Egypt							
	The travel expenses including transport (million American Dollars)	6.328	7.206	8.133	10.327	12.104	3
	The travel expenses apart from transport (million American Dollars)	6.125	6.851	7.591	9.303	10.985	3
	The average duration of accommodation (day)	9.9	9.9	10.2	10		
	The number of inbound tourists (1000 ones)	12.800	11.091	9.083	11.091	12.800	3
Indonesia							
	The travel expenses including transport (million American Dollars)	5.226	5.094	5.458	6.578	8.547	4
	The travel expenses apart from transport (million American Dollars)	4.798	4.522	4.448	5.346	7.375	4
	The average duration of accommodation (day)	3	2.9	3.2	2.8		
	The number of inbound tourists (1000 ones)	5.321	5.002	4.871	5.506	6.200	4
Iran							
	The travel expenses including transport (million American Dollars)	1.305	1.364	1.760	1.950	2.196	5
	The travel expenses apart from transport (million American Dollars)	1.044	1.069	1.452	1.677	1.908	5
	The average duration of accommodation (day)	Usually between 2 and 5 days during recent years					
	The number of inbound tourists (1000 ones)	1.659	1.889	2.735	2.2	2	5
Malaysia							
	The travel expenses including transport (million American Dollars)	9.182	10.389	12.280	17.951	18.553	2
	The travel expenses apart from transport (million American Dollars)	8.203	8.846	10.427	12.905	15.277	2
	The average duration of accommodation (day)	An average of 6 days during recent years					
	The number of inbound tourists (1000 ones)	24.432	24.209	25.298	28.325	25.300	2
Nigeria							
	The travel expenses including transport (million American Dollars)	49	46	51	340	380	7
	The travel expenses apart from transport (million American Dollars)	21	18	21	215	250	6
	The average duration of accommodation (day)	----	----	----	----		
	The number of inbound tourists (1000 ones)	2.646	2.776	3.056	2.600	2.800	5
Pakistan							
	The travel expenses including transport (million American Dollars)	765	828	919	912	915	6
	The travel expenses apart from transport (million American Dollars)	179	182	255	276	145	7
	The average duration of accommodation (day)	25	25	25	25		
	The number of inbound tourists (1000 ones)	648	798	898	840	800	7
Turkey							
	The travel expenses including transport (million American Dollars)	----	19.720	18.520	20.649	25.019	1
	The travel expenses apart from transport (million American Dollars)	15.888	18.152	16.853	18.478	21.951	1
	The average duration of accommodation (day)	4.5	4.3	3.9	3.8		
	Duration of overnight accommodations (1000 ones)	49.728	56.108	46.640	56.540		
	The number of inbound tourists (1000 ones)	17.517	21.125	19.820	23.341	26.300	1

Reference: UNCTUD Handbook of Statistics, 2009

CONCLUSION

The investigation of main tourism indicators during years 2004-2008 indicates that the indicator of travel expense in Iran was 2.196 million \$ in 2008 compared to the expense of outbound travels of Iranians which was about 9.482 million \$. In other words, in 2008, the tourism income of Iranians from the entry of foreigners was 2.196 million \$ while their expenses due to outbound tourism (travelling to foreign countries) was about 9.482 million \$ which is almost 4.5 times more. The share of tourism income is about 6% from gross domestic product (GDP) and 2.2% from export.

The income of Egypt from international inbound tourism was more than 12 billion \$ in 2008 while the Egyptians had spent 3.390 billion \$ on outbound tourism in foreign countries, the share of tourism income was 7.4% from gross domestic product (GDP) and 40.62% from export of goods and 48.6% from export of services in 2008.

The tourism income of Nigeria in 2007 was about 340 million \$ while the cost of the tourism of its people in other countries of the world is 3.494 billion \$ per annum, the share of tourism income was about 2% from gross domestic product (GDP), 5% from export of goods and 20% from the export of services in 2007.

As to Bangladesh, the tourism income in 2008 was about 91 million \$ compared to the 918 million \$ spent by its people on tourism in foreign countries in the same year, the share of tourism income is about 1% from gross domestic product (GDP), 6% from export of goods and 4.7% from the export of services.

The tourism income of Malaysia from the international inbound tourists was about 18.553 million \$ in 2008 while the cost of tourism of Malaysians was 7.724 million \$ in the same year, by comparing the situation of income and expense indicates that the tourism balance of Malaysia is about +11 billion \$. The share of tourism income was about 9.5% from gross domestic product (GDP), 9.3% from export of goods and 61.2% from the export of services in 2008.

In Pakistan, the tourism income from the international inbound tourists was about 915 million \$ in 2008 and the cost of tourism spent by people of Pakistan was near 2.035 billion \$ in the same year which is almost two times more compared to the rate of income, the share of international tourism income is about 5% from gross domestic product (GDP), 3.4% from export of goods and 22.2% from the export of services.

The tourism income of Turkey from the inbound tourists was about 25.019 billion \$ in 2008 while the cost of tourism of its people in other countries of world was about 4.031 billion \$, the comparison of these two indexes gives a +21 billion \$ tourism income balance in Turkey, the share of tourism income was about 3.2% from gross domestic product (GDP), 17.17% from export of goods and 17.5% from the export of services in 2008.

The income of Indonesia from the international inbound tourists in 2008 was about 8.150 billion \$ and the rate of tourism cost in other countries of world was about 8.547 billion \$ in the same year which are almost equal, the share of tourism income is about 1.6% from gross domestic product (GDP), 5.8% from export of goods and 53.5% from the export of services.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Considering the fact that the average growth of gross domestic product (GDP) in countries of D8 Group was about 2.16 in 2009, and that the rate of gross domestic product and per capita income of 5 countries among the mentioned members is less than the average of the group, the development of investments on tourism division is necessary as it develops the many job opportunities and needs less financial resources compared to industrial division. For the countries such as Turkey, Malaysia and Egypt has higher rates of gross domestic product compared to the other members since the average of their tourism income is high.

2. In order to attract the tourists from the member and non-member countries, it is necessary to invest on qualitative and quantitative development of tourism products and services such as hotels, Restaurants, leisure and touristic centers, and increasing their capacity, improving and organizing natural, cultural and historical centers in countries such as Egypt, Iran, Nigeria, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan. For in most of the mentioned countries the coefficient of hotel and bed occupancy coefficient is extremely high and they need to increase the capacity of beds and hotels (for instance, this coefficient is 76% in Egypt, 87% in Nigeria, 51% in Pakistan, 48% in Indonesia and 45% in Bangladesh).

3. Establishing a development fund and insuring the tourism investment in D8 secretariat is recommended in order to perform studies, provide investment packs, support the non-governmental investors and present financial and non-financial incentives to attract investors.

4. Investigating the ways of removing of decreasing the tariff and nontariff barriers for the tourism products and services of D8 members.

5. Holding annual and periodic foreign direct investment (FDI) seminars by the D8 secretariat and investigating the ways to finance loan and no-loan financial resources.

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