UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

SPATIAL-ECONOMIC CHARACTERIZATION OF RESILIENT URBAN DESTINATIONS

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SPATIAL-ECONOMIC CHARACTERIZATION OF RESILIENT URBAN DESTINATIONS

By

LEW SHIAN LOONG

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

June 2012

DEDICATIONS

To the glory of the King Immortal, Invisible, the only Wise God

And to my family

With all my love

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

SPATIAL-ECONOMIC CHARACTERIZATION OF RESILIENT URBAN DESTINATIONS

By

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JUNE 2012

Chair: Lee Chin, PhD

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Ironically globalization has made a destination's location important but its distance negligible. How do destinations maintain their resilience in such a context? There is a need for a spatial-economic characterization of resilient urban destinations. In a weightless world, demand intangibility must match supply tangibility. Chapter 2 suggests that resilience requires fitness. In the context of tourism this condition of information symmetry is initialized when space acts as an interface, encouraging visitor-destination interactions, and therefore enhances place-making. Computer simulations demonstrated how the right rules led to information symmetry, scaling up from visitor micromotives to destination-level macrostructures. As an axiom, optimal destination resilience coincides with the highest irreducible complexity. Chapter 3 outlines the rule or heuristic to follow to estimate irreducibility at destinations. In a borderless world, such a condition is met where transitions and convergences coincide in the destination's growth path. A visual phenomenology is used to categorize

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transitions; while an index measures convergences. In an interlinked world, destinations need to be locally-authentic while being globally-popular. Chapter 4 suggests that it is sufficient that a resilient destination be poised for change. Venice was chosen as an archetypical case for urban destination accessibility. Two sample administrative regions were chosen to reflect its local-global accessibility. Cannaregio was chosen for its localized authenticity and San Marco for its global popularity. The findings in Chapter 4 demonstrated how, visitor, place-related information, derived from geo-tagged images can be complemented with topographical, geographical information derived from satellite images to serve as reliable proxies for authenticity-popularity levels at urban destinations; allowing us to make inferences concerning an urban destination's resilience. Each chapter offered a different angle to resilience that contributed to the robustness of the characterization. Specific insights were gained with respect to destination design and planning, destination development and positioning; and finally destination resilience. Faced with the challenge of weightlessness, the design and planning of a destination should be guided by visitors-centric information. Visitors act as sensors within the destination space, like pixels on a screen, they highlight the meaningful places embedded within the public space. Faced with the challenge of borderlessness, destination development and positioning should be achieved through a co-evolutionary approach. This adaptive management of destinations recognizes that coordination between visitors and destinations is needed to achieve irreducible complexity. Faced with the challenge of interlinkages, the rule-of-thumb for destination resilience is time-space accessibility, boiling down resilience to a right balance between place and space. The popularity mandate requires a prolonged experience of time at destinations, in spite of the limited destination space. This can be achieved through the creation of microcosms, essentially "one space

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many places". The authenticity mandate requires shortening the experience of time at destinations in spite of the extensive destination space. This can be achieved through the creation of heterotopias, essentially "one place many spaces". The resilient destination, having aspects of popularity and authenticity, is a synthesis of the two, allowing heterotopias and microcosms to co-exists in a third place, effectively fusing work and play at destinations.

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Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhikeperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah.

PENCIRIAN EKONOMI RUANG DESTINASI BANDAR BERDAYA TAHAN

Oleh

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Akibat globalisas, lokasi sesuatu destinasi dijadikan lebih penting daripada jaraknya dari tempat pengunjung. Bagaimanakah destinasi pelancongan mengekalkan daya tahan dalam konteks ini? Sejerusnya soalan ini menimbulkan keperluan untuk pencirian ruang-ekonomi destinasi bandar yang berdaya tahan. Dalam dunia nirberat, ciri daya permintaan yang tak ketara harus dijadikan sepadan dengan keketaraan daya penawaran. Bab 2 menunjukkan bagaimana daya tahan berasaskan keadaan sepadan diantara permintaan and penawaran. Dalam konteks pelancongan, keadaan simetri maklumat ini akan dicetuskan apabila ruang bertindak sebagai penggantara sambil meningkatkan interaksi antara pengunjung dan destinasi. Keadaan ini meningkatkan nilai ketempatan sesuatu destinasi. Simulasi komputer menunjukkan bagaimana peraturan yang betul membawa kepada simetri maklumat, menghubungkan motif

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pengunjung dengan struktur ruang sesuatu destinasi. Sebagai aksiom, daya tahan destinasi yang optimum bertepatan dengan kerumitan tidak direduksi yang paling tinggi. Bab 3 menggariskan kaedah atau heuristik untuk menganggarkan keadaann kerumitan tidak direduksi yang maksimum ini. Dalam dunia tanpa sempadan, keadaan ini bertepatan dengan fasa peralihan dan penumpuan yang berada dalam trajektori pertumbuhan sesuatu destinasi. Sesuatu fenomenologi visual digunakan untuk mengkategorikan fasa-fasa peralihan; manakala sesuatu indeks disesuaikan untuk menaksir tahap penumpuan dalam kedudukan destinasi. Dalam dunia yang saling berkait, destinasi memerlukan kesahihan lokal sambil popularitи global. Bab 4 menunjukkan bagaimana daya tahan ditingkatkan apabila destinasi bandar bersedia untuk perubahan. Venice telah dipilih sebagai kes pola asas dalan mengkaji akses global-lokal. Dua sampel wilayah pentadbiran di Venice telah dipilih untuk mencerminkan aspek akses global-lokal destinasi bandar. Wilayah pentadbiran Cannaregio dipilih untuk menggambarkan kesahihan lokalnya, manakala wilayah San Marco dipilih untuk menggambarkan popularitи globalnya. Bab 4 menunjukkan bagaimana maklumat pengunjung dari imej “geo-tag” boleh dilengkapkan dengan maklumat topografi yang berasal dari imej satelit untuk menaksir tahap kesahihan-popularitи di destinasi bandar; dan mencapai kesimpulan tentang daya tahan destinasi bandar. Setiap bab memberikan perspektif yang berbeza kepada konsep daya tahan destinasi bandar, dan membolehkan pencirian yang lebih teguh. Bab 2 sampai bab 4 memberi sesuatu pendalaman pengetahuan tentang reka bentuk destinasi dan perancangan, pembangunan dan kedudukan destinasi; dan akhirnya daya tahan destinasi. Berhadapan dengan cabaran nirberat, reka bentuk dan perancangan destinasi harus dipandu oleh maklumat pengunjung. Pelawat berfungsi sebagai sensor dalam ruang destinasi, seperti piksel pada skrin televisyen, pelawat bandar menonjolkan

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tempat-tempat yang bermakna dalam ruang awam. Berhadapan dengan cabaran tanpa sempadan, pembangunan dan kedudukan destinasi harus dicapai melalui pendekatan evolusi bersama. Kaedah pengurusan penyesuaian ini membolehkan penyelarasan antara pelawat dan destinasi untuk mencapai kerumitan tidak direduksi yang paling tinggi. Berhadapan dengan cabaran kesalinghubungan, garis panduan untuk daya tahan ada kaitan dengan akses dari segi ruang-masa. Mandat popularity memerlukan pengunjung yang berpanjangan masa di destinasi, walaupun ruang destinasi terhad. Ini boleh dicapai melalui penciptaan mikrokosma, yang pada asasnya ialah "sesuatu ruang dengan banyak tempat". Mandat kesahihan memerlukan pemendekan masa di destinasi walaupun ruang destinasi adalah luas. Ini boleh dicapai melalui penciptaan heterotopias, yang pada asasnya adalah "sesuatu tempat dengan banyak ruang". Destinasi yang berdaya tahan mempunyai pengimbangan popularity dan kesahihan dalam pengabungan mikrokosma dengan heterotopias, ini membolehkan gabungan ini bersama-wujud di "tempat yang ketiga", yang mana "tempat yang ketiga" berfungsi menggabungkan aktivity kerja dengan aktiviti main.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 29 June 2012 to conduct the final examination of Lew Shian Loong on his thesis entitled "Spatial-Economic Characterization of Resilient Urban Destinations" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

LEW SHIAN LOONG

Date:19 June 2012

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