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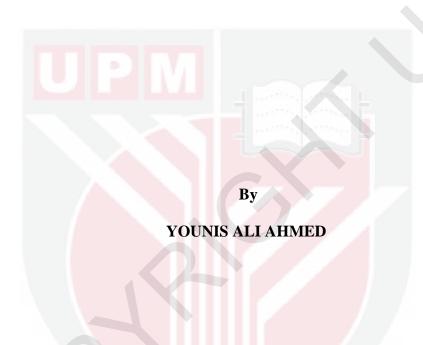
ROLE OF THE TOURISM SECTOR IN THE IRAQI ECONOMY

YOUNIS ALI AHMED

FEP 2014 18



ROLE OF THE TOURISM SECTOR IN THE IRAQI ECONOMY



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

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DEDICATION

To:...

- * Our Prophet...... Taught us how to learn
- * The spirit of my father..... his wish and prayers
- * My dear mother symbol of sacrifice and altruism
- * My brothers and sisters love and appreciation
- * My wife, who always supports me throughout my life
- * My sons...... Hardi and Muhammed

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

ROLE OF THE TOURISM SECTOR IN THE IRAQI ECONOMY

By

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November 2014

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Tourism has been a significant industry to the economy since the beginning of human civilization, and is becoming more vital in the future. Many countries all over the world continue to attract tourists to destinations in their respective countries since the late 20th century. Ample attention has been given to the role of tourism in the national economy and to the promotion of tourist activities in different areas.

Due to the positive potential of tourism industry, Iraq supposed to take the opportunity and seriously involve itself in the industry. Iraq can be regarded as one of the greatest tourist sites in the world. Iraq can become an attractive destination for domestic and inbound tourism when investments are provided and ample attention is given to the development of the tourism industry. However, until today the attention that been given by Iraq to the tourism industry is still less as compared to the oil and gases industry. The importance of the oil and gas industry is undeniable however, provide an opportunity to expand the economic base is also important. Moreover, the development of tourism industry has been seen as a good potential to Iraq economy.

Research on tourism demand and tourism growth in Iraq is also scarce. Most researchers and scholars have conducted research on strategic components of tourism in general or for a short period, and to the best knowledge of the researcher there is no current literature on tourism in Iraq that analyzes long-run and short-run relationships between tourism demand and its determinants. Therefore, this study provides a good analysis and its findings serve to fill the gaps in the literature on the role of tourism sector in the Iraqi economy. Due to the importance of tourism as an engine of economic growth and the lack of research in this field, research in the field of tourism has been carried out. Specifically, this study attempts to provide analysis that can fill the gap in the literature on the role of the tourism sector in the economy of Iraq.

This study tries to analyze the role of the tourism sector in the Iraqi economy by providing an explanation of determinant variables in domestic tourism demand, inbound tourism demand, and economic growth. To achieve this goal, ARDL method, with three major models, namely, domestic tourism demand, inbound tourism demand and economic growth model have been applied. The main advantage of ARDL modeling is that it can estimate the long-run and short-run relationships in the

tourism demand and economic growth models. Moreover, the error correction term (ECT) of the ARDL procedure is then can show on the speed of adjustment when there is any shock in the determinant variables.

The main findings from this study is the income, tourism price, real exchange rate, travelling costs and population are the main determinants for domestic and inbound tourism demand. It is interesting to note that tourist income is positively and tourism price is negatively related to domestic and inbound tourism demand in the long-run and short-run. Also, empirical results show for most developed and developing countries income and price are elastic (greater than one), therefore the tourism product is luxuries. These finding clearly supports the first and second parts of the hypothesis of present study. Moreover, from the finding, the domestic and inbound tourism expenditure did not have a positive effect on gross domestic product (GDP), but the capital investment and total export in the long-run had a bigger positive effect as compare to the tourism expenditure. So, this study highlights the reason for lower contribution of tourism expenditure to economic growth in Iraq in the long-run and short-run. This finding clearly supports the third part of the hypothesis of present study.

Also, this study has found Iran is the largest source market of Iraq, because more than 90% of total arrival comes from Iran (especially after convention between Iraq and Iran in 1997 allowing coming Iranian tourist to Iraq) with shorter stay and lower spending. However, the Australia smaller source market of Iraq, because only 0.003% of total arrival from Australia visit to Iraq with longer stay and higher spending.

Overall, the estimated models in this study are performed, since there are fulfill the diagnostic test. Thus, policy maker can use these results and finding for Implication and forecasting purpose.

Keywords: Domestic Tourism Demand, Inbound Tourism Demand, Economic Growth, ARDL approach, Iraq.

Abstrak tesis dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah.

PERANAN SEKTOR PELANCONGAN DALAM EKONOMI IRAQ

Oleh

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Pelancongan menjadi industri yang signifikan kepada ekonomi sejak permulaan tamadun manusia, dan menjadi semakin penting pada masa hadapan. Banyak negara di seluruh dunia terus berusaha menarik pelancong ke destinasi di negara masingmasing sejak abad ke-20. Perhatian telah diberikan kepada peranan pelancongan dalam meningkatkan ekonomi negara dengan menggalakkan aktiviti pelancongan di kawasan-kawasan yang berbeza.

Dengan potensi yang positif dalam industri pelancongan, Iraq seharusnya berperanan dan mengambil peluang secara serius melibatkan sendiri dalam industri ini. Iraq boleh dianggap sebagai salah satu tempat pelancongan yang berpotensi di dunia. Iraq boleh menjadi destinasi menarik untuk pelancongan domestik dan antarabangsa apabila pelaburan disediakan dan perhatian yang mencukupi diberikan kepada pembangunan industri pelancongan. Walau bagaimanapun, sehingga hari ini perhatian yang diberikan oleh Iraq untuk industri pelancongan masih kurang berbanding dengan industri minyak dan gas. Kepentingan industri minyak dan gas tidak dapat dinafikan bagaimanapun, memberi peluang untuk memperluaskan asas ekonomi juga penting. Tambahan pula, perkembangan industri pelancongan telah dilihat sebagai potensi yang baik untuk ekonomi Iraq.

Penyelidikan keatas permintaan pelancongan dan pertumbuhan pelancongan di Iraq juga adalah terhad. Kebanyakan penyelidik hanya menjalankan kajian ke atas komponen strategik pelancongan secara umum atau untuk tempoh yang singkat, dan sehingga kepada pengetahuan penyelidik, tidak terdapat kajian semasa mengenai pelancongan di Iraq yang menganalisis permintaan jangka panjang dan hubungan jangka pendek antara penentu-penentu permintaan pelancongan. Oleh kerana pentingnya pelancongan sebagai penjana pertumbuhan ekonomi dan kurangnya kajian dalam bidang ini, kajian dalam bidang pelancongan menjadi pilihan penyelidikan. Secara spesifik kajian ini cuba menyediakan analisis yang dapat mengisi jurang dalam kesusasteraan mengenai peranan sektor pelancongan dalam ekonomi Iraq.

Kajian ini cuba menganalisa tentang peranan sektor pelancongan dalam ekonomi Iraq dengan memberikan penjelasan mengenai hubungan penentu dalam permintaan pelancongan domestik, permintaan pelancongan dari luar negara dan pertumbuhan ekonomi. Untuk mencapai matlamat ini, kaedah ARDL dengan tiga model utama iaitu, permintaan pelancongan dalam negeri, permintaan pelancongan luar negara dan

model pertumbuhan ekonomi telah dilakukan. Kelebihan utama penggunaan model ARDL ia boleh menganggarkan hubungan jangka panjang dan jangka pendek dalam model permintaan pelancongan dan pertumbuhan ekonomi. Tambahan pula, ralat pembetulan (ECT) dalam ARDL dapat menunjukkan kecepatan pelarasan apabila terdapatnya sebarang gangguna dalam pemboleh ubah penganggaran.

Penemuan utama kajian mendapati pendapatan, harga pelancongan, kadar pertukaran sebenar, kos perjalanan dan penduduk adalah penentu utama bagi permintaan pelancongan domestik dan dari luar negara ini. Ia adalah menarik untuk ambil perhatian bahawa pendapatan pelancongan adalah berhubung secara positif dan harga pelancongan berhubung secara negatif dengan permintaan pelancongan domestik dan dari luar negara dalam jangka panjang dan jangka pendek. Juga, keputusan empirikal menunjukkan pendapatan di negara maju dan membangun serta harga adalah elastik (lebih daripada satu). Oleh itu, pelancongan di Iraq dikategorikan sebagai barangan mewah. Dapatan ini menyokong hipotesis pertama dan kedua kajian ini. Selain itu, perbelanjaan pelancongan domestik dan perbelanjaan pelancong asing (inbound) tidak mempunyai kesan positif ke atas Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK), tetapi pelaburan modal dan jumlah eksport dalam jangka panjang itu mempunyai kesan positif yang lebih kecil berbanding dengan perbelanjaan pelancongan. Dengan itu, dirumuskan bahawa sumbangan yang lebih rendah diperoleh daripada perbelanjaan pelancongan kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi di Iraq dalam jangka panjang dan jangka pendek. Dapatan ini jelas menyokong bahagian ketiga hipotesis kajian ini.

Selain itu, kajian ini telah mendapati Iran merupakan pasaran sumber terbesar Iraq, kerana lebih 90% daripada jumlah ketibaan berasal dari Iran (terutama selepas konvensyen antara Iraq dan Iran pada tahun 1997 yang membolehkan kedatangan pelancong Iran ke Iraq), Bagaimanapun, mereka merupakan penginap jangka pendek dan memiliki perbelanjaan yang rendah semasa berada di Iraq. Walau bagaimanapun, pasaran terkecil Iraq adalah Australia, hanya 0.003% daripada jumlah ketibaan dari Australia lawatan ke Iraq, bagaimana mereka penginap jangka panjang dan merupakan penyumbang perbelanjaan yang lebih tinggi.

Keseluruhan, model penganggaran dalam kajian ini adalah model yang baik, kerana memenuhi semua ujian diagnostik. Oleh itu, pembuat dasar boleh menggunakan keputusan dan dapatan untuk Implikasi dan tujuan peramalan.

Keywords: Permintaan Pelancongan Dalam Negeri, Permintaan Pelancongan Luar Negra, Pertumbuhan Ekonomi, pendekatan ARDL, Iraq.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 17 November 2014 to conduct the final examination of Younis Ali Ahmed on his thesis entitled "Role of the Tourism Sector in the Iraqi Economy" 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | Page |
|----|--|----------|
| | | |
| | BSTRACT | 1 |
| | BSTRAK CKNOWLEDGEMENTS | iii |
| | PPROVAL | v vi |
| | ECLARATION | viii |
| | IST OF TABLES | xiii |
| | IST OF FIGURES | xvi |
| | | |
| ~ | | |
| C. | HAPTER | |
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| | 1.1 General Background | 1 |
| | 1.2 Background of the Case Study | 2 |
| | 1.3 Problem statement | 3 |
| | 1.4 Research Question | 5 |
| | 1.5 Objectives of the study | 5 |
| | 1.6 Research Hypotheses | 5 |
| | 1.7 Significance and Motivation of the study | 6 |
| | 1.8 Scope of the study | 6 |
| | 1.9 Contribution of the study | 7 |
| | 1.10 Organization of the study | 8 |
| | 1.11Summary | 8 |
| 2 | TOURISM INDUSTRY IN IRAQ | 9 |
| | 2.1 Introduction | 9 |
| | 2.2 Economic system in Iraq | 9 |
| | 2.3 Security and political stability in Iraq | 9 |
| | 2.4 Tourism development in Iraq | 10 |
| | 2.5 Elements and Tourism components in Iraq | 10 |
| | 2.5.1 Elements of tourism supply | 10 |
| | 2.5.2 Elements of tourism demand2.6 The role of tourism growth on the Iraqi economy | 18 23 |
| | 2.6.1 Contribution of tourism revenue to exports | 23 |
| | 2.6.2 Contribution of tourism sector to employment | 24 |
| | 2.6.3 Contribution of tourism revenue to GDP | 24 |
| | 2.7 Summary | 26 |
| | | |
| 3 | THEODETICAL EDAMEWODE AND LITEDATUDE | 27 |
| 3 | THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW | 27 |
| | 3.1 Introduction | 27 |
| | 3.2 Theoretical Framework | 27 |
| | 3.2.1 Concept of Tourism - Demand Theory | 28 |
| | 3.2.2 Concept of Tourism - Growth Theory | 32 |
| | 3.3 Literature Review | 37 |
| | 3.3.1 Review of the variables for the tourism demand analysis | 38 |

| 3.3.2 Review of the variables for the tourism growth 3.3.3 Review of dummy variables for tourism demanders. | |
|--|----------------------|
| tourism growth models | 45 |
| 3.3.4 Models implemented in the previous studies | 47 |
| 3.3.4.1 OLS Technique | 47 |
| 3.3.4.2 ARDL Approach | 48 |
| 3.4 Summary | 48 |
| 5.4 Summary | 40 |
| 4 METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION | 49 |
| 4.1 Introduction | 49 |
| 4.2 Basic ARDL approach | 49 |
| 4.3 Specific tourism demand model for Iraq | 51 |
| 4.3.1 Specific domestic tourism demand model for Ira | _ |
| 4.3.2 Specific inbound tourism demand model for Irac | • |
| 4.4 Specific economic growth model for Iraq | 52 |
| 4.5 Variables, data description, and data sources | 53 |
| 4.5.1 Variables and Data Description | 54 |
| 4.5.2 Variables and Data Sources | 58 |
| 4.6 Estimation procedures of the ARDL approach for the | |
| demand and economic growth models | 59 |
| 4.6.1 Stationary test with ARDL approach | 60 |
| 4.6.2 ARDL approach to co-integration analysis for to | <mark>ou</mark> rism |
| demand and tourism growth | 62 |
| 4.6.3 Model specification and estimation techniques for | r the |
| tourism demand and economic growth models | 64 |
| 4.6.4 Diagnostic Checking | 73 |
| 4.7 Summary | 75 |
| | |
| 5 EMPRICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION | 76 |
| 5.1 Introduction | 76 |
| 5.2 Economic Analysis of domestic tourism demand for l 5.2.1 Stationary Test for variables in domestic touris | |
| Model | 76 |
| 5.2.2 Co-integration Test for domestic tourism dema | and model 77 |
| 5.2.3 Long-run and short-run estimation of the dome | |
| tourism demand model | 78 |
| 5.2.4 Effect of dummies on domestic tourism deman | d 81 |
| 5.2.5 Diagnostic Checking for domestic tourism dem | and model 82 |
| 5.2.6 Index for accurate domestic tourism demand es | |
| 5.3 Economic Analysis of inbound tourism demand for Ira | ag 84 |
| 5.3.1 Stationary Test for variables in inbound tourism | • |
| model | 84 |
| 5.3.2 Co-integration Test for inbound tourism deman | |
| 5.3.3 Long-run and short-run estimation of the inbot | |
| demand model | 88 |
| 5.3.4 Effect of dummies on inbound tourism demand | |
| 5.3.5 Diagnostic Checking for inbound tourism demand | |
| 5.3.6 Index for accurate inbound tourism demand est | |
| 5.4 Economic Analysis of economic growth for Iraq | 102 |
| 5.4.1 Stationary Test for variables economic growth in | |
| | |

| | 5.4.2 Co-integration Test for economic growth model | 103 |
|-----|---|-----|
| | 5.4.3 Long-run and short-run estimation of economic growth | 104 |
| | 5.4.4 Effect of dummies on economic growth | 107 |
| | 5.4.5 Diagnostic Checking for economic growth model | 107 |
| | 5.4.6 Index for accurate economic growth estimation | 108 |
| | 5.5 Summary | 108 |
| 6 | SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION | 109 |
| | 6.1 Introduction | 109 |
| | 6.2 Summary of results | 110 |
| | 6.2.1 Co-integration test | 110 |
| | 6.2.2 Elasticity of Long-run and short-run estimations | 111 |
| | 6.2.3 Estimation of the dummy variable effect on the tourism | |
| | sector | 113 |
| | 6.2.4 Diagnostic tests and accurate estimation of ARDL models | 114 |
| | 6.3 Major findings and economic implications | 115 |
| | 6.4 Study Limitations and suggestions for Future Research | 118 |
| | 6.5Conclusion | 119 |
| | | |
| Rl | EFERENCES | 120 |
| Al | PPENDICES | 139 |
| BI | IODATA OF STUDENT | 176 |
| T T | ST OF PURI ICATIONS | 177 |

LIST OF TABLES

| Table | | Page |
|-------|--|------|
| 2.1 | Number of hotels in Iraq and Kurdistan's Share from 1980 to 2013 | 13 |
| 2.2 | Number of restaurants and cafes in Iraq and Kurdistan's Share from 2007 to 2012 | 14 |
| 2.3 | Total Investments and tourism Investments in Iraq from 1980 to 2013 | 17 |
| 2.4 | Number of domestic tourists in Iraq and Kurdistan's share from 1980 to 2013 | 19 |
| 2.5 | Number of inbound tourists of Iraq and Kurdistan's Share from 1980 to 2013 | 20 |
| 2.6 | Distribution ratios to the tourist arrivals from selected countries in Iraq from 1980 to 2013 | 22 |
| 2.7 | The ratio of tourism export to total and non-oil exports of Iraq from 1980 to 2013 | 23 |
| 2.8 | Number of workers employed in tourism sector in Iraq from 1980 to 2013 | 24 |
| 2.9 | Tourism revenue and GDP of Iraq from 1980 to 2013 | 25 |
| 4.1 | Expected sign of relationship between dependent, independent and dummy variables | 57 |
| 5.1 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for domestic tourism demand model for Iraq | 77 |
| 5.2 | Co-integration Test: An ARDL approach for domestic tourism demand | 77 |
| 5.3 | Long-run ARDL approach elasticity estimates for domestic tourism demand | 78 |
| 5.4 | Short-run Error correction elasticity estimates for domestic tourism demand | 80 |
| 5.5 | Result of estimation effect of dummy variables on domestic tourism demand | 82 |
| 5.6 | Diagnostic tests for domestic tourism demand model | 83 |
| 5.7 | Indicators for accurate domestic tourism demand estimation | 84 |

| 5.8 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for U.S | 84 |
|------|---|----|
| 5.9 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for U.K | 85 |
| 5.10 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for Canada | 85 |
| 5.11 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for Australia | 85 |
| 5.12 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for France | 85 |
| 5.13 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for Italy | 86 |
| 5.14 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for Turkey | 86 |
| 5.15 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for Iran | 86 |
| 5.16 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for Saudi Arabia | 86 |
| 5.17 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for Pakistan | 87 |
| 5.18 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for India | 87 |
| 5.19 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for inbound tourism demand model for Kenya | 87 |
| 5.20 | Co-integration Test: An ARDL approach for inbound tourism demand for Developed and Developing countries | 88 |
| 5.21 | Long-run ARDL elasticity estimates for developed countries | 89 |
| 5.22 | Short-run Error correction elasticity estimates developed countries | 90 |
| 5.23 | Long-run ARDL elasticity estimates developing countries | 92 |
| 5.24 | Short-run Error correction elasticity estimates developing countries | 93 |
| 5.25 | Result of estimation effect of dummy variables on inbound tourism demand for developed and developing countries | 95 |
| 5.26 | Diagnostic tests for inbound tourism demand model | 97 |

| 5.27 | Index for accurate inbound tourism demand estimation | 102 |
|------|--|-----|
| 5.28 | Result of Unit root test on dependent and explanatory variables for economic growth model for Iraq | 103 |
| 5.29 | Co-integration Test: An ARDL approach for economic growth | 104 |
| 5.30 | Long-run ARDL approach to elasticity estimates for economic growth | 104 |
| 5.31 | Short-run Error correction elasticity estimates for economic growth | 106 |
| 5.32 | Result of estimation effect of dummy variables on economic growth | 107 |
| 5.33 | Diagnostic tests for economic growth model | 107 |
| 5.34 | Indicators for accurate estimation of ARDL model | 108 |
| 6.1 | Testing for co-integration: an ARDL approach | 110 |
| 6.2 | Long-run and Short-run estimation of domestic tourism demand | 111 |
| 6.3 | Long-run estimation of inbound tourism demand for Developed and Developing Countries | 111 |
| 6.4 | Short-run estimation of inbound tourism demand for Developed and Developing Countries | 112 |
| 6.5 | Long-run and short-run estimation of economic growth model of Iraq | 113 |
| 6.6 | Estimation of effect of dummy variables on domestic, inbound and economic growth of Iraq | 114 |
| 6.7 | Indicators for diagnostic tests and accurate estimation of ARDL models | 114 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| Figure | | Page |
|--------|--|------|
| 3.1 | Theoretical Framework for Tourism Demand Model. | 32 |
| 3.2 | Theoretical Framework for Tourism growth and Economic growth models. | 37 |
| 5.1 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, Domestic tourism demand for Iraq. | 83 |
| 5.2 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, Domestic tourism demand for Iraq. | 83 |
| 5.3 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for U.S. | 98 |
| 5.4 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for U.S. | 98 |
| 5.5 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for U.K | 98 |
| 5.6 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for U.K | 98 |
| 5.7 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Canada. | 98 |
| 5.8 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Canada. | 98 |
| 5.9 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Australia. | 99 |
| 5.10 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Australia. | 99 |
| 5.11 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for France. | 99 |
| 5.12 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for France. | 99 |
| 5.13 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Italy. | 99 |
| 5.14 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Italy. | 99 |

| 5.15 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Turkey. | 100 |
|------|---|-----|
| 5.16 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Turkey. | 100 |
| 5.17 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Iran. | 100 |
| 5.18 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Iran. | 100 |
| 5.19 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Saudi Arabia. | 100 |
| 5.20 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Saudi Arabia. | 100 |
| 5.21 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Pakistan. | 101 |
| 5.22 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Pakistan. | 101 |
| 5.23 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for India. | 101 |
| 5.24 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for India. | 101 |
| 5.25 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Kenya. | 101 |
| 5.26 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, inbound tourism demand for Kenya. | 101 |
| 5.27 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, economic growth for Iraq. | 108 |
| 5.28 | Result of Cumulative Sum of Squares of Recursive Residual test of Long-run relationship, Economic growth for Iraq. | 108 |

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Overview of the chapter

This chapter provides an explanation of the tourism aspects along with the tourism background of Iraq. Major sections include the Problem Statement, Research Objectives, and Hypotheses, Significance of the Study and Contributions of the Study.

1.1 General Background

Tourism has been significant since the beginning of human civilization, and is becoming more vital each passing day. Many countries all over the world have continued to attract tourists to destinations in their respective countries since the late 20th century. Ample attention has been given to the role of tourism in the national economy and to the promotion of tourist activities in different areas. The 21st century is a century of travel and tourism. Estimates for 2004 indicate that more than 11% of GDP and 8% of world export earnings will originate from tourism activity (Daher, 2007). In 2005, the world's total tourist arrivals topped the 800 million mark and generated foreign income of nearly USD 680 billion. Tourism is the most widespread industry in the world and the principal source of revenue and job creation in many countries (Chen, 2009). Hence, tourism is no longer considered an industry entirely for entertainment or leisure, but as one of the first industries to highlight the necessity of preserving the natural environment and historical heritage. Therefore, the tourism sector is regarded as an "industry without smoke" (Page ^ Connell, 2006). Today, tourism is a global phenomenon in terms of social, cultural, environmental, political and economic dimensions.

Tourism has an active and vital function in the economic and political openness of a country to the outside world (Tisdell, 1996). Tourism has different effects on the host country. In each case, the intensity of these effects depends on government policies, religion, and culture that prevail in the host country. According to World Tourism Organization studies (WTO, 2011), the tourism industry is the key to development in many countries and is influential in economic diversification. This activity supports government revenues, job creation, trade balance, cultural diversity, and infrastructure development, as well as increase in GDP growth.

International tourism is of extreme significance to the national economy and the provision of foreign exchange. Many countries, such as Spain, Greece, Mexico, and Morocco depend heavily on the tourism industry (Culpan, 1987).

Travel and tourism has become the largest industry not only in the developed countries, but also in China, which is the largest tourist destination in Asia. The WTO estimates that China is among the top ten countries in the tourism market because 210 million to 300 million tourists are expected to visit China in 2020. The tourism sector in China will contribute 11% of the GDP in 2020.

Oil revenues in the Middle East are expected to decrease in the next 20 to 30 years. Thus, numerous countries in this region consider tourism as an opportunity to offset

1

this decrease in revenue and to highlight their natural assets, historic cultures, and Islamic traditions. For example, Saudi Arabia has raised the economic contribution of tourism to 6% despite the dominance of the oil sector on the state economy. Tunisia has been successful in managing its tourism industry which accounts for more than 14% of the GDP of the country (AL-Aoaady, 2011; WTTC 2013). The fastest growing destinations, such as Dubai and Qatar are trying to accommodate more international tourists to the Middle East. By developing infrastructure and superstructure by 2020, the projected number of tourist arrivals is 81.4 million (United States Agency for International Development [USAID, 2007]).

Iraq is one of the most important oil-exporting countries. However, Iraq has experienced an increase in the contribution of the tourism revenue to 5 % of the GDP in 2011. Giving Iraq opportunity to develop tourism industry more extensive and to diversify Iraqi economy.

The number of tourist arrivals and tourism revenue are two of the indicators of tourism development. The number of tourists in the world reached 25 million in 1950, 681 million in 2000, and 1 billion in 2011 (Mishra et al., 2011; WTTC, 2012; WTO, 2013). According to WTO (2011) estimates, the number of tourists in the world will increase from 1 billion to 1.5 billion in 2020, and the tourism revenue will reach approximately US\$ 2000 billion in 2020. The WTO estimated that with the development of domestic and foreign tourism, Europe will lose its market share in terms of number of international tourists. Consequently, outbound tourism is expected to develop rapidly in Asian countries and Arab states. Tourism among the Arab states will increase one-and-a-half times more than that of all international tourism (United States Agency for International Development [USAID, 2007]).

Hence, the tourism industry needs to be organized and encouraged in all fields (Culpan, 1987). The three essential requirements for tourism development are tourist attractions, services, and country infrastructure. Developed countries, such as France and Italy have been highly successful in providing these requirements, but the prominent role of the government in the development and planning of the tourism sector in developing countries is required (Yang et al., 2008).

Multiple determinants are available for tourist activities. Identifying the internal and external factors that affect tourist demand is necessary to create competitive advantages for the tourism industry. To determine the amount of investment required for infrastructure and other resources to meet the tourist demand and to know how the contribution of tourism expansion to economic growth are also vital (Wang, 2009).

1.2 Background of the Case Study

The Mesopotamian civilization, as well as the oldest civilizations in the world, dating back to 6000 BC, namely, Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Balabasien, and Ottoman Empire, have formed an essential network for tourism in Iraq. The past civilizations of Iraq participate in the positive image of the country as a land of ancient civilizations, thereby resulting in the creation and development of high tourist traffic flow. High financial returns contribute to the development of this archaeological heritage and help increase the national income (Abdullah, 2009).

Iraq has three geographic regions with different environmental conditions. The mountainous region has moderate climate in the summer and cold climate in the winter. The large amount of snow in the high mountains establishes a suitable condition for tourism and winter sports (Kettani, 1990). The Kurdistan Region, located north of Iraq, is gradually being recognized as a tourist destination region. The mountains of the Kurdistan Region have considerable ecotourism and adventure travel potential all year round (USAID, 2007). In 2011, *National Geographic* selected the Kurdistan Region as among the best tourist attractions in the world. The magazine included the region in the list of top 20 tourist areas in the world for 2011 because of historical cities, snow-capped mountains, peace and stability, and bustling markets of the region. The *New York Times* in 2011 also ranked the Kurdistan Region among the best tourist attractions in the world, ranking it 34th among 41st worldwide destinations.

Moreover, the government of Iraq should identify areas such as the Kurdistan Region that can compensate for the entire tourism sector of the country. This plan can be achieved by developing the Kurdistan Region, thereby increasing the number of tourists and tourism revenue. This plan also should be accomplished particularly after the inauguration of the Kurdistan region as a major tourist destination in the Arab States in 2014.

1.3 Problem Statement

Iraq tourism has great potential to attract a large number of tourists because of its abundant historical places that date back to thousands of years, which may not be available in other countries. However, despite the country's noticeable potential tourist-attractions, the tourism industry has received a modest attention because of the lack of management, modest quality of facilities and services, low level of qualification of tourism employees, and lack of institutes to promote tourism awareness and training.

Moreover, Iraq is one of the most important oil-exporting countries. Therefore, oil revenues dominate the overall economic activity of the country, thereby contributing directly and indirectly to the decreased importance given to other sectors and to the less attention given by the government to the development of the oil sector as the backbone of Iraq economy, thereby contributing less to the development of the tourism sector. This situation turned Iraq into a mono-cultural economy which depending on only the oil sector as the source of foreign exchange. The over dependence of the Iraqi economy on the oil sector tends to have a negative effect on the development of its economy. This is because the price of oil is beyond the control of the Iraq economy and is subject a high level vulnerability as a result of political instability, global economic and financial crises.

To better understand the problem statement, this study attempts to present briefly the reduction of domestic and inbound tourists in Iraq. Also, this study presents the contributions of tourism revenue to the GDP growth of Iraq from 1980 to 2013.

The percentage of domestic tourists from the total population in Iraq in 1980 was 18%, however, the numbers decreased after 2000: in 2012 there was a 10% decrease compared to 1980 because of the wars and political instability, and the modest quality of facilities and services at tourism destinations in Iraq. To increase domestic

tourism demand it is necessary to determine the factor or factors that drive such a demand. These factors are selected based on their direct and indirect influence on domestic tourism demand and because they are dynamic nature.

In the same period mentioned above, the number of inbound tourists to Iraq also decreased. The number of inbound tourists as a percentage of the total population of Iraq in 2012 declined to six percent compared to eight percent in 1980 because of the First Gulf War, the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, and the political instability and security concerns. To increase inbound tourism demand, similar to domestic tourism demand, the factors that directly impact inbound tourism demand must be identified. To examine and determine these factors, a total of 12 countries are chosen, whose nationals constitute 82% of the total number of tourist arrivals in Iraq. These countries are more related to Iraqi tourism, and are divided into developed and developing countries to expand the research findings.

The contribution of tourism revenue to the GDP of Iraq from 1980 to 2013 reflects the state of continuous oscillation in both tourism revenue and GDP. The tourism industry generated the highest revenues in 1980 (4.43%), the year that preceded the Iraqi-Iranian war. The ratio of tourism revenue to GDP has declined to very low levels since then. The largest reduction occurred after 1991 and reached 0.003% in 1999 because of the economic blockade, and the political and security instability. However, since 2000 Iraq has experienced an increase in the contribution of the tourism revenue to 2.5 % of the GDP in 2012. (Ministry of Iraq Tourism, 2013).

Despite the increasing contribution of the tourism revenue to the GDP of Iraq, the Iraqi government has failed to consider tourism diversification as a necessary strategy to develop Iraq's economy. To increase gross domestic product (GDP) should know factors that affects the gross domestic product in Iraq. To examine these factors, this study evaluates the contribution of tourist expenditure or tourism revenue to the economic growth of Iraq, beginning with an analysis that assumes Iraq plans to diversify its economy and one of the ways is to increase its tourism revenue by focusing on the factors that can contribute positively the country's economic growth.

Besides knowing the factors that influence domestic and inbound tourism demand and how they affect economic growth of Iraq, it would them be possible for the Iraqi government to plan its diversification program, with the tourism sector as one of the important sectors in the country's economic diversification strategy that would help to increase Iraq's Gross Domestic Product.

Thus, tourism industry should be given priority as well as oil industry. Tourism development in Iraq can have a multiple effect on the Iraqi economy. First, the Iraqi government can promote the tourism sector to increase tourism revenue and its GDP thereby increasing the number of tourists (domestic and inbound) to the Iraq destination. Second, tourism diversification provides more income sources to the surrounding environment, which increases investment to all other sectors as it relates to the activities of the other sectors of the economy. Third, perhaps, diversification into tourism sector tends to be one of the strategies that the government needs to consider so as to overcome the adverse effects of fluctuation in world oil prices on the Iraqi economy. In case of fluctuation in oil prices, diversification may help the economy by creating opportunities of earning revenue and diversification of exports to escape the adverse effects of a mono-cultural economy.

This study investigates the role of tourism sector on Iraqi economy and also examines the factors that affect domestic and inbound tourism demand. Therefore, developing tourism activity, determining the problems confronting the industry it is necessary to have appropriate operational planning.

1.4 Research Question

To explain the role and influence of the tourism sector in the Iraqi economy, this study formulated a set of questions relevant to the study. Specifically, the study addresses three original questions pertinent to the determination of the factors that affect tourism demand and accelerate tourism expansion in Iraq.

- 1. What are the factors that influence domestic tourism demand in Iraq?
- 2. What are the major factors that affect inbound tourism demand in Iraq?
- 3. What are the major factors that influence the economic growth of Iraq?

These questions could be explained by presenting the objective of this study. The possible answers to these questions can be obtained by presenting and analyzing the results of the study.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to investigate the factors that affect domestic and inbound tourism demand of Iraq. The study also determines the contribution of tourism expenditure to the economic growth of Iraq. Moreover, this study examines the problems of the tourism sector in Iraq and provides guidance to concerned officials to adopt strategies that address these problems.

This study aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

- 1. To determine the factors that influences the domestic tourism demand in Iraq.
- 2. To examine the determinants of Iraq inbound tourism demand for the top 12 major tourist arrival countries.
- 3. To evaluate the contribution of domestic tourism expenditure and inbound tourism expenditure to the economic growth of Iraq.

1.6 Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses have been empirically tested to answer the proposed questions:

Ha: Domestic tourism demand in Iraq is significantly related to changes in tourist income, tourism price, real exchange rate, population, and specific events.

Ha: Inbound tourism demand in Iraq for each of the 12 countries of origin is significantly related to changes in tourist income, tourism price, real effective exchange rate, traveling cost, and specific events.

Ha: The domestic and inbound tourism expenditure has been able to contribute to the economic growth of Iraq from 1980 to 2013.

1.7 Significance and Motivation of the Study

The following points highlight the importance and significance of the study:

- 1. Given its tourism potential, Iraq can be regarded as one of the greatest tourist sites in the world.
- 2. Research on tourism demand and tourism growth in Iraq is scarce.
- 3. Research on tourism in Iraq reveals strategies and solutions to overcome the obstacles confronting the tourism sector.
- 4. This study investigates the reality of the tourism industry in Iraq in various aspects, including domestic tourism demand, inbound tourism demand, tourism investment, and tourist services.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is as follows:

- 1. This study focuses on the tourism sector in Iraq. It does not attempt to compare Iraq to other countries because Iraq has been involved in three devastating wars between 1980 and 2013, which is also the same period used in this study. Comparing Iraq with other countries is not feasible and nor of particular research interest. Nevertheless, this study chose to focus on how tourism in the Kurdistan Region has flourished in recent years, particularly in terms of number of visitors to the region because of security and stability.
- 2. Most researchers and scholars have conducted research on strategic components of tourism in general or for a short period. Compared with previous studies, this study attempts to identify a set of strategies to highlight the true reality of the tourism sector and its future prospects in Iraq by using data from official reports and documents from 1980 to 2013.
- 3. This study adopts secondary data for the period (1980 to 2013). Collection of data from more sources (World Bank, WTTC, WTO, CBI, IMF, EIU, OPEC, Ministry of tourism of Iraq and Ministry of planning of Iraq) is to gain access to more details and logical results.
- 4. According to scientific sources and WTO indicators, studies in some areas have used alternative variables because of missing data on some variables, such as tourist demand and number of tourists or tourist expenditure, traveling cost, and price of crude oil.
- 5. To achieve the main objectives of the study, several economic variables, such as the number of tourists (domestic and inbound), tourism expenditure (domestic and inbound), capital investment, exports, GDP, as well as non-economic variables, such as population, political stability, and security, are utilized.

1.9 Contribution of the Study

This study offers many contributions but only the most important will be discussed:

Contribution at the local level

- 1. This study applies long- and short-run relations between tourism demand (domestic and inbound) and determinants for Iraq using ARDL approach. To the best knowledge of this researcher, no current literature on tourism in Iraq had analyzed long- and short-run relations. Also, no current literature on Iraqi tourism used new approach, such as ARDL. However, most tourism studies on Iraq only used OLS approach with simple statistic tools (see appendix A for literature review on top 12 studies on Iraqi tourism).
- 2. This study examines and analyzes the tourism market source of Iraq for the top 12 countries as formulated by the inbound tourism demand model for Iraq (as shown in appendix A, no current literature on inbound tourism demand was found among the top 12 studies included in the literature review on Iraqi tourism).
- 3. This study uses a co-integration between tourism expansion and economic growth for Iraq by applying (domestic tourism expenditure, inbound tourism expenditure, capital investment, total export and real GDP) for the period 1980 to 2013. To the best knowledge of the researcher, no literature presently focuses on the contribution of tourism expenditure to the economic growth of Iraq.
- 4. This study attempts to deal with new variables for tourism demand and economic growth models, such as real GDP, tourism expenditure, and traveling cost. This study also attempts to deal with new dummy variables that significantly affect domestic and inbound tourism demand although previous tourism studies have not focused on these factors, such as the Iraq-Iran war from 1980-1988, economic blockade imposed on Iraq (1992-1996), and the Iraq-Iran convention 1997).
- 5. This study also attempts to present a clear picture of the tourism industry of Iraq, the tourism supply and tourism demand, export, employment, and GDP. The study also identifies the problems that facing the Iraqi tourism sector and selects the necessary policy to solve the problems (See Chapter Two and Chapter Six). This analysis enables the development of new policies and strategies on the behavior of domestic and inbound tourism market and how to attract new tourists to Iraq how to protect them.

Contributions at the international level

1. This study not only focuses on inbound tourism as appears to be represented by the literature, but also on domestic tourism demand. In our review on tourism demand, only five out of 147 (3.4%) studies analyzed domestic tourism demand. Some studies were limited to international tourism not because domestic tourism was less important, but data and information on domestic tourism were limited (Ivanov & Webster, 2006). Recently, tourism organizations have encouraged researchers to focus on domestic tourism to make a balance if awareness between domestic and international tourism to so that domestic tourism is not unduly ignored and disadvantaged.

- 2. Most of the literature has only focused on one aspect of tourism, such as analyzing tourism demand or tourism growth. This study attempt to relate how tourism demand increases economic growth.
- 3. Most literature on tourism, if not all, focus on analyzing the effects of the Iraq-Iran war from 1980 to 1988, Gulf war in 1991, and the Iraq war in 2003 on tourism demand and growth in Asia or of other tourism countries. No current study has analyzed the effects of these wars on Iraqi tourism.
- 4. Most studies used tourist arrival statistics to measure tourism demand because data are difficult to obtain. However, the number of tourists does not provide an accurate proxy for tourism demand. This study will fill this gap by using domestic tourist expenditure to measure domestic tourism demand and inbound tourist expenditure to measure inbound tourism demand.
- 5. Finally, this study contributes to the body of knowledge because this study on Iraqi tourism sectors serves a pioneering function and no current international academic journals have published papers on the same subject.

1.10 Organization of the study

This study analyzes and measures the role of tourism sector in Iraqi economy. To achieve this goal, theoretical and selected economic model applications are used in this study. The study has six chapters. Chapter I provide the introduction. Chapter II provides the tourism industry in Iraq. Chapter III has two main sections. The first discusses the theoretical framework of the study, while the second section contains the literature review. Chapter IV presents the methodology of the study including data collection, model of the study, procedures, and data analyses. Chapter V provides empirical results and discussion. Finally, Chapter VI summary and conclusion.

1.11 Summary

In many developed and developing countries, ample attention has been given to the role of tourism in the national economy and the promotion of tourist activities in different areas. In this study consider three important aspects, beginning with the role of tourism in developing the world and choosing the Iraq tourism sector as background of the study. Second, discuss the problem statement using supporting official data on tourism to prove the existence of the problem. Third, explain the objective and the contribution of this study.

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