

BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN ISLAND DESTINATION

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ABSTRACT

Research on the concept of community participation in tourism development has begun in the developed world. It has proven that the application of this concept is facing with barriers in developing countries so do with the island destinations. Hence, this paper illustrates the barriers of community participation in tourism development in Tioman Island, Malaysia. It is a quantitative study involved 345 local people in several villages located in the island. The findings indicate that there are internal (culture) and external barriers (operational and structural) which hinder community participation. On top of that, it is found that weather is an external barrier highlighted by the community. As they are segregated in several villages and largely depends on water transports, weather condition influences their movements to participate in tourism development at the island. The research limitations relate to the geography factors apply to the island which differ from the main land. It concludes that the intention to change is not just on the parts of the local people. Other stakeholders also need to provide opportunities to encourage community participation in tourism development. It is suggested that this research can be done in other islands to gain better understanding on community participation in island tourism development.

Keywords: *community participation, tourism development, Tioman Island, barriers*

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has been viewed universally by many countries in the world as a vehicle of development since its emergent in 1960s. The countries especially the developing and less developed ones including islands have started to concentrate in their efforts on promoting tourism industry. Tourism acts as a tool to enhance local economies as it provides employment opportunity, increase revenues and tax receipts, improve foreign exchange benefits and enhance community infrastructure that will in turn, attract other industries (De Kadt, 1979; Lankford & Howard, 1994; Wahab, 2000; Ko & Stewart, 2002). However, behind the success stories of the tourism industry, there are challenges on the grounds of social, cultural and environmental issues (Liu and Var, 1986; Tho, 1985; Wall & Mathieson, 2006). Indeed, it has not enjoyed the recognition it deserves at the table of some policymakers and world leaders (UNWTO, 2010). As a result, researchers in recent years have embarked towards safer approach of tourism development that is sustainable tourism. One of the emphasizes of this approach is geared towards community participation that is by creating better opportunities for local people to gain larger and more balanced benefits from tourism development taking place in their localities (Tosun, 2000), improving local attitudes towards tourism development and local resources (Inskip, 1994; Murphy, 1988) even increased limits of local tolerance to tourism (Dogra & Gupta, 2012). Local participation is vital to the success of tourism industry as they can be considered as one of the tourism products and their inputs in decision making process of tourism development should be the focal point (Choi & Sirikaya, 2005). However, previous studies indicated that local community failed to participate and even maximize the benefits of tourism development (Scheyvens, 2003; France, 1998). Indeed, there is a lack of studies on barriers of community participation at a particular tourism destination. Thus, lead to the question of how serious the government or authority in valuing the local participation input in tourism development especially in island destinations, considering its limited and fragile resources. For that matter, this paper investigates the barriers of local community participation in decision making process of tourism development in Tioman Island, Malaysia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Community

There are various definitions related to community and these terms are confusing. Based on Hillery's (1955, p.65) review on 94 community definitions, he concluded that "no agreement had been achieved but every definition deal with people". In addition to his review, he found that there are three main components related to the term community: (i) area, (ii) common ties and, (iii) social interaction. On top of that, Buchers, Glen, Henderson and Smith (1993) contended that the term community has a strong relationship with physical and social elements such as location and ethnicity. Jamal and Getz (1995) defined community as a body of people living in the same locality. Based on the geographical perspective, this paper identifies local community as the people who are living in Tioman Island.

Community participation

There is a lack of agreement on common definition of community participation. Brager and Specht (1973, p. 47) stated that community participation as "the means by which people who are not elected or appointed officially of agencies and of government influential influence decisions about programs and policies which affect their lives". WHO (2002) looked at community participation as process of citizens to channel their voice opinions and get involved in the decision making process. Additionally, many professionals agreed that local community participation can improve the process of decision making which leads towards efficient utilization of target resources. Community participation is also important in educating local community to be alert of their surroundings and being more responsive to the rights that they posses. Besides that, community participation can benefit the local community through ensuring the economic benefits from tourism stay among the residents as they are the tourism dependent communities (Scheyvens, 1999; Mitchell & Reid, 2001; Hipwell, 2007; Trejos & Chiang, 2009). According to Timothy (1999), community participation in tourism can be examined from two perspectives: decision making process and tourism bene-

fits. Ying and Zhou (2007) contended that decision making process allows residents to be empowered in tourism development through the ability to express their concerns and desires while example of tourism benefits is gaining employment opportunities.

The decision making process is the main concern of this study. Tosun (2000) defined community participation as a form of action in which individuals confront opportunities and responsibilities of citizenship. The opportunities may include joining in the process of self-governance, responding to authoritative decisions that impact one's life and working co-operatively with others on issues of mutual concern (Til, 1984). For Askew (1989), it is an educational and empowering process in which people, in partnership with those able to assist them, identify problems and needs and increasingly assume responsibility themselves to plan, manage, control and assess the collective actions that are proved necessary. Dinham (2005) stressed that local community need to transform from passive to active attitude for a new relationship to occur. By having a proactive attitude, local community are able to control unwanted change and ensure the best development plans to fit their needs (Cheong and Miller, 2000). As to encourage the tourism development process, planners and community leaders need to provide educational information and programs such as workshops and awareness programs to residents (Sirakaya, 2001). For an ideal condition of community participation, it requires a transfer of power, from those who had major decision-making roles to those who traditionally have not had such a role (Willis, 1995). This means, readjustment of power between local community and developers or the local authority need to be conducted in professional way as not to manipulate the participation process. Indeed, the common approach of top-down administration system that creates problems during implementation of projects requires to be reviewed (Langley, 2002).

Barriers to community participation

In many insular and less-developed regions, tourism has been developed and controlled by large, multinational tour companies who have little regards for local socio-cultural and economic conditions (Timothy & Ioannidas, 2002). This is due to the fact that most devel-

oping destinations and microstates lack the wealth and political power, which make them prone to decision-making that is beyond their control (Timothy & Ioannidas, 2002). Indeed, Walkinson (1987) stated a point that many decisions governing domestic matters are made elsewhere by foreign tour companies and services providers, who often do not have the destination community's best interest in mind (Timothy & Ioannidas, 2002). In some cases, a country that is in control of tourism development may lose the power of decision making to a few prominent individuals who control the wealth and political strength (Bianci, 1999:273). Autocratic power systems have kept grassroots involvement from flourishing in some parts of the world where representation of democracy has been discouraged (Timothy, 1999). As a result, tourism developments shaped by local entrepreneurs have less possibility to survive in the long term. Undeniably, the victimized party will be the local community who are going to lose their destination goodwill as well as jobs generated from the industry.

In organizing the fact related to barriers of community participation in decision-making process of tourism development in developing country, Tosun (2000) had divided them into three main headings: (i) Operational limitations, (ii) Structural limitations and, (iii) Cultural limitations. Most of these limitations occur in developing countries although they do not exist in every tourist destinations. Operational limitations include centralization of public administration of tourism, lack of co-ordination and lack of information. For structural limitations, the items include attitudes of professionals, lack of expertise, elite domination, lack of appropriate legal system, lack of trained human resources and relatively high cost of community participation and lack of financial resources. Finally, cultural limitations cover the area of limited capacity of poor people and apathy and low level of awareness in the local community. In addition, Tosun (2000) accepted that the limitations may be due to the political, social and economic structure in developing countries, which prevent them from achieving higher level of development. Aref and Redzuan (2008), pointed out that in Iran, the lack of powerful leadership is the main barriers of community participation. Omondi and Kamau (2010) stated that all barriers of community participation as laid out by Tosun (2000) were proven in their study in Kenya which

results to poor community participation in tourism development. Similar to research conducted by Dogra and Gupta (2012), all barriers took place in Sudh Mahadev, Jammu India. They highlighted the structural barrier as the main hurdle of community participation.

Tourism Planning in Malaysia

Involvement and commitment of Malaysia Government in tourism industry started since 1970s due to economic downturn and decline in popularity of commodity products (Government of Malaysia, 1976). The establishment of Tourism Development Corporation (TDC) in 1972 was a serious effort towards putting tourism as one new industry in diversifying the economy of Malaysia. As a result to this establishment, first Tourism Master Plan was completed in 1975 with the collaboration from international consultants. The plan discussed the detail layout of tourism policies for tourism development in Malaysia. Despite the good initiative done by government, it experienced with implementation hurdles as local people viewed social and cultural impacts negatively towards them. However, continuous government attempt and effort in portraying economic benefits from tourism industry has changed the resident's perceptions from negative to positive (Wells, 1982).

Besides that, the national Five Years Plan is also important in tourism planning in Malaysia. The plan is utilized by every state in Malaysia for statistics collection and budget allocation. In addition, the plan includes strategies and government policies for tourism development especially in term of positioning Malaysia as one of the popular tourist destination globally. Furthermore, the 3rd Five Year Plan (1976-1980) stressed that community participation in tourism development is important (Government of Malaysia, 1976) as the focus was concentrated on sharing the economic benefits rather than public participation in decision making process. Government did not view this matter as important as most of the tourism planning process is controlled by state and local authorities. However, space for community to voice their views is through physical planning process (Structure Plan and Local Plan studies) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. For the purpose of this paper, both studies are utilized as a mean to examine community participation.

Before the completion of National Physical Plan in 2005, all guidelines and strategies on physical development were based on Structural Plan and the Malaysia Five Years Plan. The Five Year Plan only concerns about socio-economic matters and the Structural Plan concentrate on local perspectives without any reference to national level. Realizing the gap, amendment has been made on the Town Planning Act (Act 172) in 2001 to produce National Physical Plan and subjected to be reviewed every five years corresponding with National Five Year Plan (Marzuki, 2008). The existence of National Physical Plan allows the policies and strategies created in the Five Year Plan to be implemented at the state and local levels. The hierarchy systems look perfect on paper, yet problems during implementation of projects do occur (Langley, 2002). This is due to some matters such as lands are under the state control, policies and strategies created at national level may not be effectively implementable.

In relation to move towards high income economy, the Malaysian Government has introduced the Economic Transformation Program (ETP) on 21 September 2010 (Economic Transformation Program, 2010). In this plan, various sectors have been identified for development programs and are called National Key Economic Areas (NKEA). Tourism industry has been considered as one of the NKEA where the industry is viewed as an economic driver for providing income and job opportunities to the general public. One of the matters that are being stressed under the theme is related to empowering rural communities to help them move up the value chain. However, method of empowering that is part of decision-making process has not been clarified.

Almost all the plan framework set by the government indicates the importance of public participation and provide some space for public improvement in economic sector, yet how public's suggestions are included in tourism decision-making process is not being specify as most plan are controlled by local authorities, state and national government. Therefore many academia (Mohd Saad, 1988; Briffett, Obbard & Mackee, 2004) criticized that community participation is facing with barriers such as limited opportunities to participate and influence the decision making process in tourism development.

Case Study Area

Tioman Island is located in Pahang, the largest state in Peninsular Malaysia. Indeed, Tioman is not a big island, about 39 km long and 12 km wide. However, it is the biggest of the 64 islands in its chain, just off the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. From the jetty of Tanjung Gemok, Tioman is about 36 nautical miles from the east coast of Pahang.

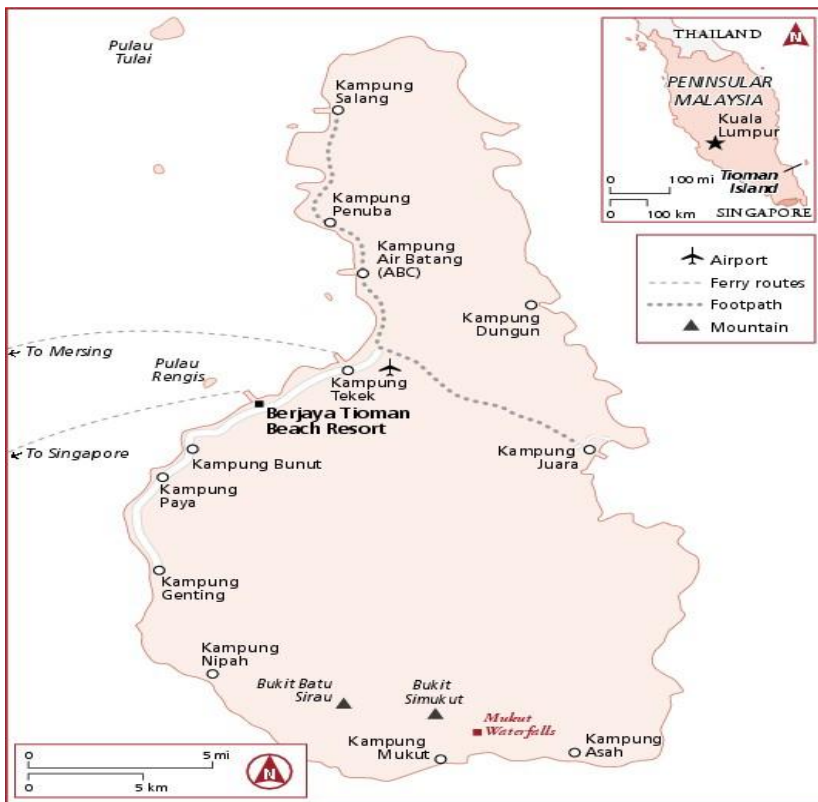


Figure 1: Location of Tioman Island.

Source: http://abcmalaysia.com/maps/tioman_mp.htm

Tioman can be accessed through several ways by the sea (ferry and speed boat) and by the air (Berjaya Air). From the air, Tioman Island has a shape like a drum stick (Figure 1). Tioman Island has miles of white sandy beaches and swaying palm trees with crystal clear water that promise spectacular marine life and colorful coral gardens. It is

not surprise that in 1970's, Time magazine named Tioman as one of the world's 10 most beautiful islands. The population of Tioman is about 3,314 people who live in eight villages throughout the island (Figure 2). The local resident population is almost 100 percent bumiputra (Malay people), all of whom are Muslim. Add up the outsiders who work in Tioman, the population rose up to 5 000 people (Ibrahim, 2006). Tekek village is the town area of the island. It covers the largest distribution of local population in Tioman and the local authority offices are based in the village. The infrastructures that can be found in the island include one primary school and secondary school, police station, Customs and Immigration department, Marine department, one government clinic and an airport. There are also a few resorts and merchandise shops. In terms of utilities, electricity is being supplied for 24 hours, however clean water supply is available at several villages only.

Figure 2: Distribution of population according to villages

No.	Villages	Resident's population
1.	Tekek and Air Batang	2092
2.	Juara	283
3.	Salang	279
4.	Genting and Paya	435
5.	Mukut and Nipah	225
Total		3 314

Sources: Tioman Development Authority (TDA), 2012

Tourism industry in Tioman Island is not a new industry for those who have been living there since 1970s. In the initial stage of development, many local people ventured in this business by becoming an entrepreneur on a small scale basis as a resort operators or a boatman. Even up until today, some of them have expanded their businesses into middle scale while others are still remaining at the same level. Statistics of tourist arrivals for the past five years (Figure 3) shall indicates the potential of the tourism industry in the island.

Figure 3: Tourist arrivals (Domestic dan International to Tioman Island from 2006 to 2011)

Year	Tourist arrivals	Total	Average	Income
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	Domestic arrivals		International arrivals		(Combine)	length of stay (Days)	from Tourism industry (RM'000)
	Total amount	%	Total amount	%			
2006	106 802	46	123 734	54	230 536	2.50	184 429
2007	114 763	49	120 668	51	235 431	3.00	226 014
2008	124 673	65	67 256	35	191 929	3.00	184 252
2009	105 867	55	88 525	45	194 392	3.00	186 616
2010	127 874	60	85 284	40	213 158	3.00	204 631
2011	121 660	57	91 020	43	212 680	3.00	204 172

Source: Tioman Development Authority (TDA), 2012

Figure above shows that the numbers of tourist arrivals is inconsistent from year to year but indicates the potential of booming as government double their effort of promoting the island. Numbers of domestic tourist for the past 5 years is not consistent. The numbers of international tourist starts to drop since 2007 but show a rise in 2011. Hope for the brighter future is still possible as the number of tourist implies an increased in the year 2011. Indeed, it is quite a challenge to boost the numbers of arrivals as tourism depends a lot on global issues that encourage people to travel. Income generated from the industry reveals a positive opportunity as the numbers keep on escalates. In order to ensure the sustainability of the industry, Tioman Development Authority (TDA) together with other tourism bodies has performed their roles in terms of providing assistance in training, finance, marketing and promoting the island worldwide. Indeed, government also declared Tioman as a free trade zone starting from 1st of September 2002. The main goal behind it is to attract more tourists to visit the island. In addition to that, it will encourage more effort to improve on the infrastructure such as road and water for the benefits of the locals and tourists.

According to Yahaya Ibrahim (2004), this island has experienced three levels of tourism development: stage one (development), stage two (operation) and stage three (transformation). This development stage is comparable to Butler destination lifecycle model whereby stage one is called exploration, stage two is involvement and stage three in development. Stage one begins as early as 1970s where this island has become tourist favorite destination especially for the allocentric groups. The beautiful beaches with crystal clear water

have attracted tourist to enjoy snorkeling and scuba diving activities. Indeed the nature surroundings are still virgin without any major tourism development projects. In addition to that, the friendly people of the island have also being the catalyst to attract tourist. Operation stage starts in 1980s where several bumiputra entrepreneurs from the main land of Peninsular Malaysia instigate to purchase 20 percent of local chalet business. In the middle of 1980s, the state government of Pahang insists to develop this island further as an international tourist destination and effort has been drawn towards changing some local chalet into a five star hotel with collaboration from private sectors for the purpose of attracting more tourists. This is the initial stage of where mass tourism has begins to emerge and tourism development expand drastically. In 1990s transformation stage become more apparent as several changes have to be faced by local residents. With the operations of the five star hotels (Berjaya resort), many local residents has been hired to fill in several positions in the hotels as well as in the golf club. To illustrate, the position are more to a lower level entry workers like waiter/waitress, guards, housekeeper, caddies and landscape workers in golf club. Salary that has been offered to the local people was between RM300 to RM900 per month. This transformation indicates a change of traditional job pattern where previously the locals normally work as a small entrepreneur or working in small industries but now earn a living through wage earner with other organization. Another implication that local residents are facing is related to increasing of land property. From 1980 to 1990, the value of land near the coastal area has soar drastically from RM1 000 to between RM200 000 and RM300 000 per acre. Other types of land also can be bought in between RM125 000 to RM 150 000 per acre. The implication of this transformation provides a threat to local residents who may sell their ancestor land to the outside investor who have the capital to develop and gain more from the initial value of purchase. Up until now, transformation (development) stage is still progressing as many facilities, infrastructure, tourist attractions are set to plan such as to built five star hotel in Nipah village (Tioman Development Authority, 2013).

The local authority that is responsible for tourism development is Tioman Development Authority (TDA). The concept of development that wanted to be created is based on eco-tourism as this island

is famous for snorkeling and diving activity. Besides that, the authority is also responsible on the development of economy and social of the people. Tioman Island is located under the Rompin District area where the local plan is done by Rompin Town and Country Planning with the collaboration from TDA.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data were collected from the local community in Tioman Island. The questionnaire is divided into two sections. The first section, focus on respondents' demographic and socio-economic such as gender, age, education, employment and value of property. The second section concentrates on the barriers of participation. The questionnaire was designed on the basis of barriers mentioned by Tosun (2000). Nine closed ended questions were designed plus an open ended question to allow participants to indicate any of their additional reason of non participatory. The respondents were asked to mark the statement on a five point Likert scale, starting from strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. This is to gain information in more accurate manner from the respondents. The questionnaire is being designed in national language that is Bahasa Malaysia to cater to the locals at the island.

An initial pilot test was conducted on a sample of 30 respondents at the Tekek village. This was carry out to verify the validity of the questionnaire's content to test respondents' understanding of the questions and the usefulness of the scale used to make assessment. No significant concerns were reported in the pilot test.

Data were collected from the period of May to September 2011. The sample size is determined based on Cohen, Manion & Morrison (2001) chart for a 95% confidence level with 5% error. Therefore, with a population size of 3500, at least 346 questionnaires were needed. Data were collected through self administered way with stratified random sampling to ensure equal number of population from each village (Tekek and Air Batang village; Salang village, Juara village, Genting and Paya village; and Mukut and Nipah village). In total, 370 questionnaires were distributed to gain almost

100% response rate. After eliminating questionnaire with incomplete answer, 345 questionnaires are available for final analysis.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The sample profile

The majority of the residents are male (63.2%), whereas female accounted for 36.8% of the respondents. Majority respondents belongs to Malay ethnic (94.2%), followed by Chinese (2%) and Indian (0.6%). Sixty six percent of the respondents are belong to young generations that is between the age of 18 to 40 years old. Married people (66.4%) are the highest number of respondents compared to single (30.1) and divorced (3.4). Two hundred and thirty four respondents (67.9%) are having education level at secondary school while those who owned Certificate and above are only 66 people (19.1%). Other respondents that are 45 people (13%), are being considered as low educated people. Seventy three percent of the respondents are working in tourism industry sectors while the remaining respondents work in government sectors and agro-based sectors. Majority (84.9%) of the respondents that involved in this study do not have any part time jobs to support their living. Almost 44% of the respondents mentioned that their value of property is less than RM5 000. Other groups are between RM5001 to RM10000 (6.4%) and RM10001 and more (49.3%).

Based on open-ended question related to average income per month, the respondents quoted that they make between RM500 to RM20000. Detail profile of the respondents is as in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Demographic and Socio-economic Profile

Feature	Number	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	218	63.2
Female	127	36.8
Ethnic		
Malay	325	94.2
Chinese	7	2.0

Feature	Number	Percentage (%)
Indian	2	0.6
Others	11	3.2
Age		
18-30	139	40.3
31-40	89	25.7
41-50	62	18
51 ke atas	55	16
Academic Qualification		
Primary School / SRP/PMR	45	13
Secondary School SPM/STPM	234	67.9
Certificate/Diploma	37	10.7
Degree and above	29	8.4
Marital Status		
Married	229	66.4
Divorced	12	3.4
Single	104	30.1
Main Occupation		
Resort/Chalet operators	39	11.3
Restaurant operators	17	4.9
Boat operators	18	5.2
Grocer	13	3.8
Soveniour shop operators	9	2.6
Travel Agents operators	5	1.4
Tourism workers	150	43.5
Fisherman	10	2.9
Agricultural sectors	9	2.6
Government Servant	52	15.1
Pensioner	3	0.9
Others	20	5.6
Part time Occupation		
Yes	52	15.1
No	293	84.9
Estimated Value of Property		
Less than RM1000	71	20.6
RM1001- RM5000	82	23.8
RM5001- RM10000	22	6.4
RM10001 – RM15000	51	14.8
More than RM15001	119	34.5

Results of barriers to community participation

The result of the mean and standard deviation for the nine items are provided in Figure 5. The barriers for community participation are divided into three categories: operational, structural and cultural.

The major barriers in operational categories is related to centralization of public administration where by almost all of the tourism planning in the island is being done and executed by TDA with the co-operation from the Town and Country Planning of Rompin District. This implies that the public administration system is too bureaucratic to respond to public needs effectively and efficiently (Tosun, 2000) as the top management is afraid of sharing of power and resources. Unwillingness of shareholders towards sharing of power is the second barriers under operational factor. Local community participation is hampered because there is lack of coordination among those people that involve in tourism development. As stated by Jenkins (1982), a sum of tourism development projects did not brought advantage as the defect cause by lack of full coordination between local and tourism planners. Indeed, in Tioman Island, many outside private tourism operators feel that they are unable to coordinate their business with local people as their knowledge is basic including lack of experience to express good ideas. The third factor under operational barriers is lack of information. Local community feels that there are a lot of tourism projects by local authorities or private sectors are secretly done without informing them, therefore minimum involvement from the public should be anticipated (Tosun, 2000).

In the categories of structural barriers, attitude of professionals is the main hurdles to community participation. This barrier is related to centralization of public administration where professionals seems to feels that their idea and work is better than local people who may have low education level as stated in demographic profile. Besides that, there is lack of strong non –governmental organizations (NGOs) at the national or international level that can encourage local to actively participate in tourism development (Tosun, 2000). Elite domination is also a barrier that being highlighted by local community. They mentioned that politics dominancy is quite high among certain group of people who hold management position. Many tourism projects were given to their relatives; and minority was left behind interms of politics and economic activities (Tosun, 2000). Next barrier is related to lack of appropriate legal system. Local community claimed that the legal system in the island particularly is not really encouraging them to participate in their local affairs. Many

tourism projects briefing were not being well spread to all local community in the island as only being informed to the Tekek villages. Even, some of them feel that their ideas were not being recognized in the decision making process. Therefore, local people are discouraged to participate. Lack of financial resources is the least barrier indicated by the local community. Local community operates business at small and medium scale. They usually have limited funds to expand their business as compared to outside investors. Therefore, they have limited capacity to play a leading role as entrepreneur in tourism industry (Tosun, 1998).

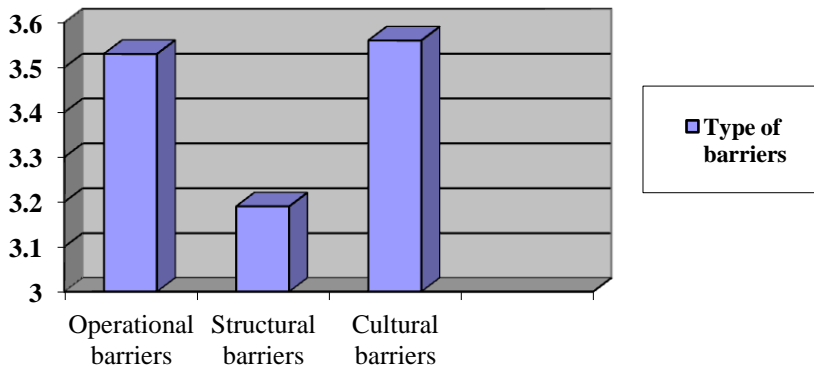
For the cultural barriers, apathy and low level of awareness in the local community is the main reasons to discourage community from participating in tourism development. For local community, they feel that they gain less benefit from tourism development as they see other investors dominate business in their own mother land. This scenario depresses them from participating as Ronsenor (1982: p.344) mentioned “citizens tend to participate only when strongly motivated to do so, and most of the time they are not motivated” especially when they seem too view that they do not gain anything from tourism industry. Another reason for cultural barriers is limited capacity of poor people to participate in tourism development. For Tioman case, the local community normally operates their business in small and medium size with limited human resources. Normally, the owner did not hire any workers except for depending on family members. Therefore, when they are busy entertaining tourist during peak period from March to August, it limits their capability to participate in tourism planning and development.

Based on the open-ended question responses, it indicates a new finding in which weather is stated as a barrier to community participation. As Tioman Island is located facing the South China Sea, the island activities are affected by the Monsoon season which occurs in September to February. It receives heavy rains and strong winds that limit the movements of the local community as the main transportation to move around the island is water-based. The only road available in the island is from Tekek village to Juara Village. The result of the mean and standard deviation for the nine items are provided in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Barriers to Community Participation in Tourism Development in Tioman Island

Type of Barriers	Barriers	Mean	S.D	Rank
Operational	1. Unwillingness of shareholders towards sharing of power.	3.47	.896	5
	2. Centralization of public administration	3.72	1.090	1
Structural	3. Lack of information	3.39	.846	6
	4. Elite domination	3.31	1.043	7
	5. Lack of financial resources	2.84	.968	9
	6. Attitude of professional	3.53	.879	4
	7. Lack of appropriate legal system	3.10	1.036	8
Cultural	8. Limited capacity of poor people	3.53	1.002	3
	9. Apathy and low level of awareness in the local community	3.62	.990	2

Figure 6: Interpreting barriers of community participation in Tioman Island



CONCLUSION

This study has identified and discussed the barriers to community participation in tourism development especially in the area of deci-

sion-making. There are three barriers encounter by the local community that is operational, structural and cultural. Cultural barriers are the highest hurdles that restrict community participation. New finding indicates that weather is another barrier that hinders local community participation as they are segregated in several villages and largely depends on water transports. The findings indicate that there are culture is an internal factor while operational and structural is the external barriers which hinder community participation. Internal barriers are related to factors that can be controlled by the local community while external barriers are beyond their jurisdiction.

In order to encourage the local participation, all stakeholders that involve in tourism development needs to work together. For internal factor like culture barriers, local people should have the spirit to change their attitude and look at tourism as something that motivates them. In addition, local community also must overcome the limited capacity for them to participate such as time and human resources. Local people need to be aware of their rights to voice opinions related to their living surroundings as they are the one that going to be impacted by the tourism development. For external factors like operational and structural barriers, other stakeholder's especially local authority and management, private sectors as well as NGOs needs to change their perception and create a space for local community to participate in tourism development of the island. Principle of sharing of power needs to be practiced in order to develop the island in sustainable way that can satisfied every party involves in the business.

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