

When Growth Meets Inequality: A Tourism Perspective from Emerging Asian Economies

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Abstract: This study investigates the long-term effects of tourism expansion on income inequality across 14 Asian countries from 1998 to 2022, testing the Kuznets curve hypothesis. Results confirm persistent inequality but support the inverted U-shaped relationship. Tourism significantly promotes economic growth and reduces income disparities. Combining tourism with inclusive employment, support for small businesses, and improved infrastructure can enhance its redistributive impact, highlighting the importance of sustainable and inclusive tourism-led development strategies for social and economic benefits.

Keywords: Panel Cointegration, Economic Growth, Tourism Expansion, Income Inequality, Kuznets Curve Hypothesis

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