

POSITION PAPER

From: The delegate of Indonesia

The covid-19 has impacted the tourism sector of Indonesia. Indonesia still depends heavily on other countries' roles, especially in terms of the need for raw materials such as plastics, textiles, and others. Indonesia is one of the COVID-19 affected nations, where the case was first declared on March 2, 2020. In Indonesia, many sectors have been affected since the first case to date. The sectors affected by the COVID-19 case in Indonesia are the economic sector, the tourism sector, the taxation sector, the trade sector, the industrial sector, oil and gas, and the micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) sector. Of course, many sectors are the key pillars of economic development in Indonesia, including the tourism and the MSME sectors. Several tourist resorts and parks in the Lagoi integrated and exclusive tourist area on Bintan Island, Riau Islands Province, have ceased operations following the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in China and 28 other countries.

Since January 23, 2020, the number of Chinese tourists on the island fell 100 percent after their government issued a travel advisory to the citizens over the coronavirus.

Not only in Bintan, but thousands of foreign tourists, mostly Chinese, canceled room reservations in and flight to Bali, North

Sulawesi, and others, over the coronavirus outbreak.

To revive the industry, the Indonesian government has launched a new approach to promote high-end tourism. High-end tourism is meant to combat the often unsustainable growth in mass tourism. It attracts fewer tourists who spend more on luxury trips than typical mass tourism experiences. In theory, this reduces environmental impacts while increasing economic benefits.

Wakatobi National Park is part of a government initiative to develop “high-quality” tourism destinations across the country through its so-called “10 New Balis” program. This effort aims to accelerate tourism development in 10 new destinations beyond the country’s top tourist destination, Bali.

According to interviews with the regional tourism office in Wakatobi, the local government has set a goal of increasing visitor numbers from 20,000 to 100,000 by 2025 by focusing on high-end tourism development.

To save the tourism, Indonesia is struggling to find a way out- ASITA is pushing programs that quicken the opening of a country's borders. It is involved in a pilot project in Bali - first distraction with vaccine based tourism.

Government has started (work from Bali) program for state civil servants. According to which government will send 25 percent of state civil servants to Bali and provide them accommodations and facilities in hotels

Domestic tourism has restarted in Indonesia and is helping to mitigate the impact on jobs and business

But real recovery will only be possible when international tourism returns. For this government has to take advantage of new technologies, implement green recovery strategies and government is making all kind of preparation like having hospitality employees fully vaccinated, setting up safety check procedures for incoming tourists, digitalization etc.