

## Special Issue

# Rural Tourism and Sustainable Development of Local Economy in Developing Countries

### Message from the Guest Editors

Tourism is one of the largest economic sectors in the world. Thus, international tourist arrivals grew 5% in 2018 (UNWTO, 2019). In addition, revenues from international tourism reached 1.7 trillion USD (UNWTO, 2019).

Previous research has demonstrated that sustainable tourism has special relevance to the development of rural tourism. The role of tourism in rural development can help to sustain and improve the quality of life in rural areas.

Just as the tourism sector is affected more than others by the current COVID-19 pandemic, developing countries are among the hardest hit. Thus, developing countries will need post-COVID-19 assistance to develop sustainable strategies to compete in the global market. As the pandemic impacts heavily on the tourism industry, those disadvantaged communities will be affected first and most severely.

This Special Issue aims to reach a better understanding of the importance of formulating sustainable strategies in rural tourism, and how these strategies can contribute to the local economy in developing countries—especially in the new post-COVID-19 scenario.

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### Guest Editors

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