UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

SEX TOURISM:
PERCEPTION ON MALAYSIA

NORSHAILLA ERNA BINTI ZAINAL

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CANDIDATE’S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledgement as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

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Name of candidate : Norshaila Erna Zainal
Candidate’s ID No : 2011767257
Programme : Master in Tourism Management
Faculty : Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management
Thesis title : Sex Tourism: Perception on Malaysia

Signature of Candidate : ........................................
Date : 17 June 2013
ABSTRACT

Sex tourism is not a new issue in the world of tourism. Some country accept it as a bad image contributor but some taking the advantage and promoting it as a part of economic booster. Corpus of literature mostly showing it is most likely associated with exploitation of children in sex. Unlike other type of tourism, this activity has been perceived as a bad image to the certain countries. Malaysia therefore without doubt is no exception has this kind of activities. However the extent of this activity takes place is still vague. Using qualitative approach employing semi-structured interview, three groups (authorities, travel agents an international tourists) were interviewed. Findings showed conflict in the system between immigration and tourism department make this activity still running illegally. Also, it is assumed that sex tourism is not on “legal-illegal” aspect but more on promoting culture like what it is called as red light district. However, the perception of these groups still believe that it is better to run this kind of activity underground as it affect the credibility of Malaysia that portrayed an Islamic country. Authorities believed and confirmed the sex tourism occurred even in the rural area but there is no promotion encouraging this kind of activity to happen in Malaysia. Most importantly, tourists do not perceive Malaysia as a sex tourism destination but rather the appreciating the nature of this country.

Key words: sex tourism, Malaysia, perception, underground, bad image, conflict, system.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENT                                       PAGE
TITLE PAGE                                    i
CANDIDATE’S DECLARATION                      ii
ABSTRACT                                      iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT                              iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS                            vi
LIST OF TABLES                                x
LIST OF FIGURE                                xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATION                         xii

CHAPTER ONE: RESEARCH SETTING

1.0   Introduction                            1
1.1   Background of the Study                2
      1.1.1 Sex Tourism                        3
      1.1.2 The Islamic Tourism Practices in Malaysia  6
      1.1.3 Definition of Sex Tourism          8
      1.1.4 Different Perception Perceive by Different Country  8
1.2   Statement of Problem                   12
1.3   Purposes of Problem                    13
1.4   Research Objectives                    14
1.5   Research Questions                     14
1.6   Significance of the Study              15
1.7   Scope of the Study                     16
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction  

2.1 Tourism in Malaysia  

2.2 Definition  
   2.2.1 Sex Tourism  

2.3 Sex Tourism  

2.4 Sex Tourists  

2.5 Sex Tourism and Prostitution  

2.6 The Phenomenon of Sex Tourism  

2.7 Sex Industry in Malaysia  
   2.7.1 Malaysians Prefer Home Grown Porn, Says Sex Search Engine  
   2.7.2 Sex Trade a Lucrative Business in Malaysia  
   2.7.3 Over 600 000 Seek for ‘Sex Buddies’  
   2.7.4 Foreign Guest Relation Officers as bait (GRO)  
   2.7.5 Escort Fee Between RM200 and RM300  
   2.7.6 Malaysia Female Students Lash Out Over ‘Prostitute’ Use in Media  
   2.7.7 Spotlight: The Dark Side of Sex in the City  
   2.7.8 Online Websites Listed Malaysia in Internet for Sex Services  

2.8 Sex Tourists’ Motivation to Travel for Sex Tourism  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Tourism in Malaysia</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Definition</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>Sex Tourism</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Sex Tourism</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Sex Tourists</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Sex Tourism and Prostitution</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>The Phenomenon of Sex Tourism</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Sex Industry in Malaysia</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.1</td>
<td>Malaysians Prefer Home Grown Porn, Says Sex Search Engine</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.2</td>
<td>Sex Trade a Lucrative Business in Malaysia</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.3</td>
<td>Over 600 000 Seek for ‘Sex Buddies’</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.4</td>
<td>Foreign Guest Relation Officers as bait (GRO)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.5</td>
<td>Escort Fee Between RM200 and RM300</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.6</td>
<td>Malaysia Female Students Lash Out Over ‘Prostitute’ Use in Media</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.7</td>
<td>Spotlight: The Dark Side of Sex in the City</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.8</td>
<td>Online Websites Listed Malaysia in Internet for Sex Services</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Sex Tourists’ Motivation to Travel for Sex Tourism</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>