



ELSEVIER

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



International Journal of Forecasting 24 (2008) 557

*international journal
of forecasting*

www.elsevier.com/locate/ijforecast

Announcement

Call for Papers: Special issue of the *International Journal of Forecasting* on tourism forecasting

Tourism forecasting has been of great interest to both academics and practitioners for the following reasons. Firstly, the success of many businesses depends largely or completely on the state of tourism demand, and ultimately management failure is quite often due to the failure to meet the market demand. Therefore, accurate forecasts of tourism demand are essential for efficient planning by tourism-related businesses, particularly given the perishable nature of the tourism product. Secondly, tourism investment, especially investment in destination infrastructures, requires long-term financial commitments, and the sunk costs can be very high if the investment projects fail to fulfill their designed capacities. As a result, the prediction of long-term demand for tourism-related infrastructures often forms an important part of the investment project appraisals. Thirdly, government macroeconomic policies largely depend on the relative importance of individual sectors within a destination. Hence, accurate forecasts of demand in the tourism sector of the economy will help the destination governments in formulating and implementing appropriate medium- to long long-term tourism strategies. Last but not least, the demand for tourism at a particular destination is one of the key factors that determines the destination's competitiveness, and therefore an accurate assessment of future tourism demand at the destination will help the destination to position itself on the world market in order to compete with its competing destinations.

Given the importance of tourism forecasting for both the public and private sectors, the past 20 years have witnessed great advances in tourism forecasting research in terms of the diversity of research focuses, depth of

theoretical foundations, and advances in forecasting methods. This special issue aims to publish recent developments in tourism forecasting research. In particular, researchers and practitioners will be invited to submit their latest work to this special issue for consideration for publication. Possible areas to be included in this special issue are tourism forecast combination, judgmental forecasting, seasonality and tourism forecasting, applications of neural networks, and advanced time series approaches in tourism forecasting.

If you are interested in contributing to this special issue, please submit a 3-page abstract to both editors of the special issue for an initial assessment. A quick response will be given regarding the suitability of the paper for the special issue. The deadline for submission of full papers is 1 December 2008. All papers submitted will go through a double blind review process, and only those papers that meet the requirements of the *International Journal of Forecasting* will be accepted for publication.

Please submit your initial abstract electronically to the two editors listed below:

Haiyan Song

School of Hotel and Tourism Management, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Email address: hmsong@polyu.edu.hk.

Rob J. Hyndman

Department of Econometrics & Business Statistics, Monash University, VIC 3800, Australia

Email address: ijf@forecasters.org.