

DAVID TAYLOR, General Director of Businet, global business educational network, United Kingdom



David Taylor is a chair of global business educational network. i.e. General Director of Businet. He left the travel industry (initially worked for Thomas Cook for 11 years) to follow a career in academia. When he left the industry, he held the position of Area Sales Manager Scotland and North East England for Thomas Cook Holidays, the tour operation arm of Thomas Cook at that time. From 1988 to 1993 he taught Travel and Tourism to level 3 students. During that period he completed his teaching qualifications and received a post graduate certificate in education. In 1993 he moved to New College Durham to take up a position of course leader for a specialist European Travel and Tourism programme at level 5. This was further developed in subsequent years to become a level 6 option (BA programme). In the early 90's David completed a post graduate Certificate in Management and a post Graduate Diploma. From there he completed his MBA.

New College Durham was a member of the Businet network of Higher Education Institutes and David became involved in the Tourism Group. He was the chair of that group from 1993 to 2001. In 1999 he took over as General Manager of the network, a position that he still holds. As General Manager of the Businet network David spends a significant amount of time negotiating and working with the hotel and tourism sectors. Since taking the role of General Manager the network has almost tripled in size,

currently boasting some 108 members in 31 countries.

David took early retirement from New College in 2016. The reason for taking early retirement was to allow him to pursue his passion for travel and to be able work, doing things he enjoys. His travels to date have taken him to over 80 countries. He also owns and manages a small property development company, as well as does some consultancy work.

Dark Tourism - an insight

The term 'dark tourism' was coined in 1996 by Lennon and Foley of Glasgow Caledonian University. The definition in the Collins English dictionary is tourism to sites associated with tragedies, disasters, and death. In 1996 Lennon and Foley stated that it is the phenomenon which encompasses the presentation and consumption (by visitors) of real and co-modified death and disaster sites. Lennon and Foley (2002) also state that it refers to events that have occurred in recent times, which force the visitor to question modernity. The concept is not new and it can be argued that dark tourism has existed throughout history. Activities such as gladiator contests in Roman times, public executions in the Middle Ages, and guided tours of morgues in 19th century Paris could all be classed as dark tourism.

In 2005 Stone (2005) suggested that "within contemporary society people regularly consume death and suffering in touristic form, seemingly in the guise of education and/or entertainment". "Dark tourism" is now well established, the growth of the sector led to the establishment of the Institute for Dark Tourism Research (iDTR), based at the University of Central Lancashire, England. The iDTR has become a world-leading academic centre for dark tourism scholarship, research and teaching. The iDTR promotes ethical research into the social scientific understanding of tourist sites of death, disaster or the seemingly macabre. The iDTR brings together researchers who seek to deliver internationally recognized research that contributes to the ethical and social scientific understanding of dark tourism and dark heritage.

This presentation will regularly refer to the publications of the institute, and will also explore the "dark tourism" spectrum. Looking at the "shades of darkness", identifying sites to illustrate "the shades". It will explore ethical issues and explore academic research into "dark tourism" and current issues. It will also identify entrepreneurial opportunities and the moral constraints attached to opportunities.