



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair**  
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A full bred of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Dr. Vikneswaran Nair, better known as Dr. Vicky Nair or Vic Nair, completed his Bachelor of Science in Horticulture in 1994. After 2 years in the plantations, he was offered to do his Masters in Systems Engineering (Environment), an IRPA (Intensified Research in Priority Area) funded project in developing an expert system for terrestrial vegetation management for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Four years later, he completed his Ph.D. in Systems Engineering (Ecotourism) with his research on developing an expert system for ecotourism accreditation and rating for Peninsular Malaysia.

At present, he is an Associate Professor at the School of Hospitality, Tourism & Culinary Arts and Director of the Centre for Research and Development of the Taylor's University in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia. He is also the Director of the Taylor's-Toulouse University Centre Research Group and the Associate Director of Taylor's Centre for Research & Innovation in Tourism (CRiT) that focuses on research in hospitality, tourism and gastronomy.

Dr. Vic Nair's research specialisation is on Sustainable and Responsible Tourism, Ecotourism Management, Environmental Management, Community-based Tourism and Poverty Alleviation via Tourism. He has conducted many visiting lectures for many public universities in Malaysia, namely Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). In addition he has also conducted lectures for the graduate programme at the University of Toulouse, France, Rikkyo University, Japan and Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), Macau.

With extensive publications to his credit, he has also been given the privilege of writing a monthly column on hospitality and tourism issues in Business Today, a leading business magazine in Malaysia and IMPAK, the official bulletin of the Department of Environment, Malaysia. He is also one of the reviewers and editors for the Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Research, USA, Journal of Tourism Geography, New Zealand, Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism, Hong Kong, Tourism Review, France, Journal of Hospitality & Tourism and the editor-in-chief of TEAM Journal of Hospitality & Tourism, Malaysia.

A certified Licensed Environmental Auditor (Environmental Management System), Dr. Vic Nair, is also currently the Malaysian representative in the International Ecotourism Club in Greece (ecoclub.com), past President of the Asia-Pacific Council for Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education (APacCHRIE) and the past Secretary of the Tourism Educators Association of Malaysia (TEAM).



In 2002, Dr. Vic Nair won the Taylor's Chairman's Staff Excellence Award for Academic Excellence followed by Research Excellence award in 2007. In 2004, he won the Best Paper Award for Tourism Research in the Third National Tourism Educators Conference for his work in ecotourism. In 2006 and 2009, he was accorded the Merit and Honorary Award respectively for Academic Leadership and Accomplishment as the Outstanding Young Malaysian of the Year organised by Junior Chambers International, for his contribution to the ecotourism industry of Malaysia. In 2008, again he won the Best Paper Award for Tourism Research in the 2nd Asia-Euro Tourism, Hospitality & Gastronomy Conference 2008 and the Best Paper Award for his work on education tourism for real estate development in the 20th National Real Estate Convention 2009. His latest accolade is when he won the RM9million bid for a national research grant for the project, "Multidimensional Responsible Rural Tourism Capacity Framework for Sustainable Tourism".

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