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Author Response Form

Dear Reviewer,

Thank you for your comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Does the Digital Economy Improve Urban Tourism Development? An Examination of the Chinese Case” (Manuscript ID sustainability-2022027). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper. Many of your comments have been very good, and I'd be happy to make detailed revisions to the article based on your comments. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. **Revised portion are marked highlight in the paper**. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as following:

Question:

1. The results of this paper show that the digital economy can directly drive the development of urban tourism. It is suggested that an actual prefecture-level city case as an example to fully illustrate the impact of the digital economy on urban development.

Response:

Your suggestions are very good and helpful for this study, and we make the following explanations and modifications.

(We revise the **6.2 Discussion** based on your comments)

The specific explanation is as follows:

On the basis of confirming that the digital economy can promote the development of urban tourism, **in this paper, Hangzhou, China, is selected as the actual prefecture-level city case study site for further analysis.** Hangzhou is a representative city of China's digital economy, and it has well-known digital economy companies represented by Alibaba. In addition, it is also a demonstration city of digital economy tourism in China, and it is the first city in China to realize the scale of digital economy tourism. The digital economy has played a key role in the tourism development in Hangzhou.

Therefore, in the discussion section, we take Hangzhou as a case study, **especially the ten scenic spots of digital economy tourism in Hangzhou**, to analyze the impact of digital economy on the urban tourism development.

Modify content:

“This paper confirms that the digital economy is an important driving force for the urban tourism development. The conclusion can be verified not only in the related research but also in many china’s cities. **Among them, Hangzhou is an important tourist destination in China**, but its attractiveness to tourists has declined due to the inefficient tourism development model. In order to promote the tourism transformation, Hangzhou Tourism Bureau, together with well-known technology enterprises,

has launched ten digital economy tourism scenes, including Hikvision, Yunqi Town, Information Harbor Town, Turing Town, Dachuang Town, Dahua Zhilian, Robot Town, Wasu Group, Alibaba, and Alibaba Cloud supET Innovation Center, which not only bring new opportunities for Hangzhou's tourism development, but also enhance the city' s image (figure 1). Specifically, (1) Hikvision is a well-known Chinese company focusing on digital technology innovation. It cooperated with the government to turn the company lobby into an immersive scenic spot to attract a large number of tourists to visit with the help of artificial intelligence and holographic projection technology. (2) Yunqi Town is an intelligent industrial park jointly built by the government, enterprises and research institutions. Unlike traditional industrial zones or tourist attractions, it not only has beautiful scenery, but also a complete industrial layout based on digital economy industries. (3) Information Port Town is a cluster of intelligent industries, which mainly includes artificial intelligence, intelligent transportation and smart home. It is known as the "Silicon Valley" of Hangzhou's digital economy. (4) Turing Town, as a digital economy application demonstration zone in Hangzhou, is a complex containing business, tourism and digital industry, which allows visitors to experience the convenience brought by digital technology in a beautiful natural environment. (5) Dachuang Town is an innovation base for the digital industry, which includes well-known scientific research institutes, maker spaces and incubators. Visitors can get a unforgettable tourist experience in the town with the help of 4K projector, multilingual translator, flexible material wearable devices. (6) Dahua Zhilian is an intelligent industrial park that deeply integrates digital economy and traditional manufacturing industry, and it is also a demonstration point to realize the transformation and upgrading of the manufacturing industry. (7) Robot Town is an innovative application park where the digital economy empowers intelligent manufacturing industries development. Tourists can interact with intelligent robots, such as dancing robots, chess-playing robots, and vending robots, in scenic spots. (8)Wasu Group is a well-known digital media company in China. In the exhibition hall of the group headquarters, visitors can experience 5G+8K ultra-high-definition video images based on 5G networks, as well as immersive tourism experience projects such as 3D cloud games. (9) Alibaba is a renowned e-commerce company and a pioneer in digital economy innovation. It opened several digital economic attractions, including "Qinchengli", Alibaba's first smart business space, and "FlyZoo Hotel", the world's first full-scene face recognition hotel. (10) Alibaba Cloud supET Innovation Center includes industrial Internet of Things (IoT) platform, digital factory and industrial intelligence platform, which aims to make the super easy transformation of industrial digitalization. Overall, the ten digital economy scenic spots are the integration of digital economy and tourism, which inject vitality into the tourism development in Hangzhou. In addition, in some cities with developed digital economies, digital tourism has become a new engine of tourism economic growth during the COVID-19."

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Figure1 The ten scenic spots of digital economy tourism in Hangzhou.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to you again.