



The Relationship between ESG Investing and Wellness Tourism

ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) and wellness tourism are two distinct concepts with multiple connections. Investors evaluate companies based on their environmental impact, social responsibility, and corporate governance practices using ESG criteria. As more investors strive to align their investments with their values and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable world, ESG investing is gaining traction. Wellness tourism, on the other hand, is the practice of travelling to a foreign country for healthcare treatments or wellness services. This form of tourism may include cosmetic surgery, dental work, and fertility treatments, as well as yoga, meditation, and spa services.

The link between ESG and wellness tourism is the prospective impact of these industries on the environment, social justice, and governance. Wellness tourism, for instance, can contribute to sustainable development by bolstering local economies and encouraging cultural exchange, but it can also have negative effects such as over-tourism, exploitation of local resources, and cultural appropriation. Therefore, ESG considerations may be pertinent when evaluating opportunities for wellness tourism. For instance, investors can evaluate the environmental impact of wellness facilities, the social responsibility of local businesses, and the governance practices of healthcare providers.



Additionally, healthcare providers and wellness centres can implement ESG principles to improve their sustainability and social responsibility practices. This may involve reducing their carbon imprint, promoting diversity and inclusion, and instituting ethical labour practices. The incorporation of health and wellness topics, such as nutrition and healthcare, into the ESG investing horizon is gaining significance. As consumers become more health-conscious, there is a growing demand for health and wellness-promoting products and services. As consumers pursue healthier and more sustainable food options, the trend toward organic and natural products is expected to continue in the nutrition industry. This creates opportunities for businesses committed to sustainable and responsible practices, such as environmentally friendly farming and ethical procurement.



As more consumers prioritize physical activity and seek out high-quality, sustainable, and ethically produced sportswear, the market for sportswear is also expected to expand. In this competitive market, companies that implement ESG practices in their production processes and supply chains can differentiate themselves.



There is a growing demand in the healthcare industry for innovative supplies and devices that are not only safe and effective, but also produced in a sustainable and socially responsible manner. Investors and consumers who value sustainability and social responsibility are attracted to companies that prioritize ESG practices, such as ethical labour practices and environmental sustainability.

ESG considerations are gaining importance in the health and wellness industry, and businesses that prioritize sustainable and responsible practices will benefit from increased consumer and investor demand. Incorporating ESG factors into investment decisions can assist investors in identifying companies that are wellpositioned to capitalize on these trends, while also fostering sustainable and responsible industry practices. Words by Dr. Narongdech Thakerngkiat Senior ESG Analyst UOB Asst Management (Thailand)

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