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# The Role of Digital Innovation in Mediating the Influence of Digital Leadership and Digital Capability on Business Performance in the Event/ MICE Industry in Indonesia

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Abstract: The objective of this research is to analyze the influence of digital leadership and digital capability on business performance that was mediated by digital innovation in the event/MICE industry in Indonesia. The research utilized technical analysis of structural equation model (SEM), and bootstrapping method to analyze the mediation role. The population for the research is the owner or company leader of Event/ MICE organizers that has been operating for a minimum of 3 (three) years. The sample consisted of 236 respondents, selected by using the method of purposive sampling. The result of the research exhibited that the digital leadership and digital capabilities do not have direct positive influences on business performance. However, digital leadership and digital capabilities positively influence on business performance, after being mediated by digital innovation, and of the two, the digital capabilities have a greater influence on business performance. The study shows that digital leadership and digital capabilities have a positive influence on digital innovation and that business performance is positively impacted by digital innovation. The practical implication of this research is the importance for management to enhance the role of digital leadership, digital capability and digital innovation to achieve better business performance.

Keyword: Digital Leadership, Digital Capability, Digital Innovation, Business Performance.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The development of the global tourism industry shows positive growth and trend, as evidenced by the data issued by UNWTO (United Nation of World Tourism Organization). There were 963 millions traveling worldwide in 2022 or represent growth rate of twice the 456 millions traveling in 2021, which was impacted by COVID-19. The total income was \$ 1.25 trillions in 2022 (from tourism) or reflecting 52% growth rate since 2021, although it is still 34% below from the year of 2019.

There are several motivations or purposes of tourist travel, inter alia 53% for recreation or holiday reasons, 11% for business and professional, and other reasons. Tourist who travelled because of business and professional are categorized as MICE (meeting, incentive, convention and exhibition) tourists, also known as meeting industry.



Figure 1: The purposes of global travel in 2019-2021

Based on the Figure 1, the potential of meeting industry (MICE) is significant, comprising 11% of the total global travel, or approximately 105.93 million visits, with a total income of \$ 143 million.

Furthermore, according to data issued by ICCA, (2023), there were 9,042 meeting events conducted throughout the year of 2022. However, Indonesia's position was relatively low, ranking 45<sup>th</sup> with only 43 events/ meetings in 2022.

The rapid development of technology has brought significant changes to the business world. One of the important stages in this technology development is the emergence of the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of the industrial revolution, also known as Industrial Revolution 4.0, Bertola & Teunissen, (2018). The tourism industry, particularly the meetings industry, is the one that has been significantly impacted by technological and digitalization developments.

The performers of meeting industry must adapt to the technological development to enhance the competitiveness. One of the efforts to increase business performance is digital leadership, which involves competence, knowledge, skills, communication methods, and attitudes in using technology. Digital leadership is essential for businesses to survive in the new digital era, because it can adapt and alter company strategies. In the several studies, show that digital leadership has a positive influence on business performance (Shin et al., 2023; Hanandeh et al., 2023).

Besides, another important factors that needed in enhancing business performance is digital capability, which involves utilizing technology and digital data to produce more valuable products and services for customers and companies (Korhonen & Gill, 2018). Several studies shown that between digital capability and business performance have positive relationship.

However, in the various studies have also discovered inconsistencies in the relation between digital leadership and digital capability on business performance Gunawan et al., (2023); Yopan et al., (2022), leading some researchers proposed to develop mediation variables in this relationship (Chae et al., 2018).

This research involved the role of digital innovation as mediation variable. Digital innovation has been identified as an importance mediation variable in several studies (Khin & Ho, (2019); Yasa et al., (2019). So that the existence of Digital Innovation able to increase the influences between digital leadership and digital capability (independents variable) on business performance (dependent variable).

#### **METHOD**

#### **Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework in this study describes the influence of independent variables on dependent variables mediated by digital innovation in the Event/MICE Industry, the research framework is as follows:



Figure 2: Conceptual Framework

# **Development of hypothesis**

Based on a conceptual framework that refers to previous studies in the Event/MICE companies, the following hypotheses are deduced (correlation and causality):

- H1: There is a positive influence of digital leadership on business performance
- H2: There is a positive influence of digital capability on business performance
- H3: There is a positive influence of digital innovation on business Performance
- H4: There is a positive influence of digital leadership on digital innovation
- H5: There is a positive influence of digital capability on digital innovation
- H6: Digital innovation mediates the positive influence of digital leadership on business performance
- H7: Digital innovation mediates the positive influence of digital capability on business performance

#### **Research Design**

The research used hypothesis testing. Hypothesis testing was applied to analyse temporary relationships (hypotheses) based on certain statements through the analysis of observation results that have been conducted, Sekaran & Bougie (2016). The time dimension of the research is cross-sectional research, concerning research on many objects at the same time, Sekaran & Bougie (2016). Collection of the data used Google Forms, which were filled out directly by potential respondents.

# **Population and sample**

The population in the study consists of the heads of company at the General Manager (GM) level and/or the owners. The characteristics of the companies are those operating in the field of event implementation, both commercial and business (MICE), domiciled throughout Indonesia, and having been operating for at least 3 years since this research was conducted. This research used the Slovin sampling technique. Data collection was carried out by distributing questionnaires via the google form platform directly to respondents. A total of 261 questionnaires were filled out, and 236 questionnaires met the requirements and could be processed.

Table 1 : The Characteristics of respondents				
CHARACTERISTIC	FREQUENCE	PRESENTAGE		
GENDER				
Male	165	69,92%		
Female	71	30,09%		
Total	236	100%		
AGE				
21 - 30 years old (yo)	31	13,14%		
31 - 40 yo	102	43,22%		
41 - 50 уо	72	30,51%		
51 - 60 yo	30	12,71%		
> 60 yo	1	0,42%		
Total	236	100%		
OCCUPATION				
Director (or equivalent)	40	16,95%		
General Manager (or equivalent)	51	21,61%		
Owner	145	61,44%		
Total	236	100%		
WORK EXPERIENCE DURATION				
1-3 years	71	30,09%		
4-6 years	63	26,70%		
7 – 9 years	24	10,17%		
< 1 year	8	3,39%		
$\geq 10$ years	70	29,66%		
Total	236	100%		
EDUCATION				
Diploma	43	18,22%		
Bachelor	132	55,93%		
Master	39	16,53%		
Doctorate	3	1,27%		
Senior High School	19	8,05%		
Total	236	100%		

Source: JASP version 0.18.1.0 data processing results

#### **Measurement scale**

To measure respondents' attitudes toward the submitted statements, 5 Likert scales were used to measure the ordinal data types, Sugiyono (2017). Each answer is given a score as follows: Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Quite Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, and Strongly Disagree = 1.

# Data analysis techniques

### Validity testing

Validity testing in this research was carried out to determine whether the prepared measurement tool instruments could truly measure the data required in the research. To assess the validity of each statement item in the questionnaire, factor analysis was performed by comparing the factor loading value to the factor loading standard Hair et al., (2018). A variable is deemed valid if the value of each dimension or indicator of the research variable has a factor loading of  $\geq 0.50$ , and invalid if it has a factor loading of < 0.50. The result of the validity test found that all indicators are valid.

#### **Reliability testing**

The reliability test was conducted to perceive whether the research instrument demonstrates the level of precision, accuracy, stability and consistency in revealing certain symptoms, although when carried out at different times with the same measuring instrument.

The coefficient of the measuring instrument or the level of reliability of the measuring instrument is derived from Cornbach's Alpha coefficient. The minimum acceptable coefficient is 0.60 (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). The basis for making decisions on reliability testing is as follows: If the Cronbach's Alpha value of reliability is  $\geq 0.60$ , the statements in the questionnaire are feasible to use (reliable), If the Cronbach's Alpha value of reliability is < 0.60, the statements in the questionnaire are not suitable for use (not reliable), It can be concluded that all the research variables are reliable.

#### The goodness of fit test

The goodness of fit test aims to determine whether a model proposed by the data researcher is accepted or not (Hair et al., 2018). The goodness of fit test is conducted by following several measurement criteria, namely: 1) Absolute fit measures (chi-square, probabilities, goodness of fit index (GFI) dan root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA)), 2) Incremental fit measures (normed fit index (NFI), Tucker-Lewis index (TLI), comparative fit index (CFI) and incremental fix index (IFI)), 3) Parsimony fit measures (normed chi-square (CMIN)).

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Table 2: The results of the goodness of fit test				
Type of	Measurement	Recommended	Value	Conclusion
measurement		acceptance limit/		
		threshold (Hair et al.,		
		2018)		
Absolute fit	X2/df	$\leq 3$	2.8131	Good Fit
measures	GFI	$\geq 0.90$ or approaching 1	0.971	Good Fit
	RMSEA	$\leq 0.08$	0.088	Marginal Fit
	SRMR	$\leq 0.08$	0.058	Good Fit
Incremental fir	CFI	$\geq 0.90$ or approaching 1	0.878	Marginal Fit
measures	TLI	$\geq 0.90$ or approaching 1	0.864	Marginal Fit
	NFI	$\geq 0.90$ or approaching 1	0.825	Marginal Fit
	RFI	$\geq 0.90$ or approaching 1	0.804	Marginal Fit
	IFI	$\geq 0.90$ or approaching 1	0.879	Marginal Fit
	RNI	$\geq 0.90$ or approaching 1	0.878	Marginal Fit
Parsimonius fit	PNFI	>0,60	0.739	Good Fit
measure				

Source: JASP version 0.18.1.0 data processing results

From the table above, it exhibits that the results of the goodness of fit test indicate that the values of  $X^2/df$ , GFI, SRMR and PNFI are above the acceptance limit/ threshold recommended by Hair et al. (2018). If 3-4 of the goodness of fit criteria are fulfilled, so that the research model can provide adequate evidences regarding the goodness of fit test model and feasible for the next testing process (Hair et al., 2018).

#### Hypothesis testing

Hypothesis testing aims to determine whether the proposed hypothesis is accepted or rejected. Testing this hypothesis used Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) and JASP version 0.18.1.0 and presented in two parts, namely the model section with direct relationship analysis and the model section with indirect relationship analysis.

Hypothesis testing with direct influence was carried out by comparing the P-value with the level of significance. In the study, if the magnitude of P-value  $\leq 0.05$ , then Ho is rejected, and the hypothesis is supported. However, if the magnitude of P-value > 0.05, then Ho is accepted, and the hypothesis is not supported (Hair et al., 2018; Sekaran & Bougie, 2016).

The role mediation was applied to conduct indirect hypothesis testing. The research used the bootstrapping method developed by Hayes (2013). Based on the results of 5,000

samples and refers to confidence interval, if the Boot LLCI and BoothULCI ranges do not cover zero value (0), it can be concluded that there is a mediation effect and significant estimation. However, if the Boot LLCI and BoothULCI ranges cover zero value (0), then there is no mediation effect and the estimation is not significant.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

# **Descriptive data**

The description of descriptive statistical results of the research variables are as follows:

Table 3: Descriptive Data				
Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation		
Digital Leadership	4,403	0.779		
Digital Capability	4,220	0.768		
Digital Innovation	4,166	0.846		
Business Performance	3,889	0.851		

Source: JASP version 0.18.1.0 data processing results

Based on table 2 above, the results of the descriptive statistical calculations show that the mean (average) value of the digital leadership variable is 4,403, which means respondents believe that digital leadership skills are essential and functioned well. The mean (average) value of the digital capability variable is 4,220, indicating that respondents believe their company has good digital capability because it produces products and services by utilizing developments in digital technology. The mean (average) value of the digital innovation variable is 4,166, meaning that respondents believe their company is capable of responding to and implementing digital innovation effectively. Furthermore, the mean (average) value of the business performance variable result is 3,889, showing that the company has better business performance than its competitors.

# Analysis and research results

Table 4: The result of direct hypothesis testing				
HYPOTHESIS		Estimation	P-Value	Conclusion
H1	$DL \rightarrow BP$	-0.117	0.092	Not supported
H2	$DC \rightarrow BP$	0.082	0.296	Not supported
H3	$DI \rightarrow BP$	1.297	0.000	Supported
H4	$DL \rightarrow DI$	0.086	0.033	Supported
H5	$DC \rightarrow DI$	0.598	0.000	Supported
$\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{r}}$ and $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{r}}$ $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{r}}$ $\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{r}}$ $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{r}}$ $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{r}$				

Source: JASP version 0.18.1.0 data processing results

Based on Table 3, the results of the hypothesis testing of direct influence using JASP software version 0.18.1.0 show there are 2 hypotheses, namely H1 and H2, that are not supported because the P-value is  $\leq 0,05$ , and there are 3 hypotheses, namely H3, H4 and H5 that are supported because the P-value is > 0,05.

Table 5: The results of indirect hypothesis testing						
HYP	OTHESIS	Estimation	P-Value	LLCI	ULCI	Conclusion
H6	$DL \rightarrow DI \rightarrow BP$	0.102	0.003	0.029	0.213	Supported
H7	$DC \rightarrow DI \rightarrow BP$	0.399	0.000	0.275	0.576	Supported
Source: JASP version 0.18.1.0 data processing results						

Table 4 shows that based on direct hypothesis testing using JASP software version 0.8.1.0, both hypothesis results, H6 and H7, are supported, because the Boot LLCI and BoothULCI values range do not include the zero value (0).

#### **Discussion of The Research Results**

In accordance to the assessment analysis of the research results through hypothesis testing as described above, the detail of the hypothesis testing results both directly and indirectly mediated by digital innovation in Event/MICE companies, is as follows:

The influence of digital leadership on business performance, this hypothesis result is not supported because there is no positive influence of digital leadership on business performance. This is different from the previous research result conducted by Hanandeh et al. (2023), which stated that there was a positive and significant relationship between digital leadership and business performance processes in the public services sector in Jordan. In this study, most of the event/MICE companies have proper digital leadership, but the digital leadership factor has no impact on business performance for the event/MICE companies.

The influence of digital capability on business performance, based on the results of hypothesis testing, there is no influence between digital capability and business performance. The results of this study are not in line with previous study on the impact of digital capability on SMEs' business performance, a case study in Batu Pahat District, Malaysia, which stated that digital capability variable had a positive relationship on business performance in the SMEs sector (Zhe & Hamid, 2021). In this study, the average respondents convinced that their companies have decent digital capabilities. However, this factor is not directly capable of enhancing business performance for event/ MICE organizer companies.

The influence of digital innovation on business performance, there is a positive influence of digital innovation on business performances. This research is similar with the previous research conducted by yasa et al. (2019), which stated that digital innovation has a positive and significant effect on business performance in the SMEs IT sector in Denpasar, Indonesia. In this study, the averages respondents' evaluations exhibited that the implementation of digital innovation positively impacts on the enhancement of business performance for event/MICE companies.

The influence of digital leadership on digital innovation, The results of the hypothesis test between digital leadership on digital innovations are supported. The result of this study is similar with the previous research, which revealed that digital leadership has a significant and direct influence on market orientation and innovation management in Indonesian telecommunication firms (Sasmoko et al., 2019). In this study, most of the respondents assured that their companies have leaders with decent digital leadership characteristics, and are capable directly of influencing to the business performance enhancement positively.

The influence of digital capability on digital innovation, Based on the results of the hypothesis testing, there is a positive influence of digital capability on digital innovation, similar to the previous research conducted by Khin & Ho (2019), which stated that digital capability has a direct positive impact on digital innovation in small to medium-sized IT firms in Malaysia. In this study, the average respondents were convinced that improving digital capabilities in their company would have a positive impact on increasing digital innovation for events/MICE companies.

The influence of digital leadership on business performance mediated by digital innovation, there is a positive effect of digital leadership on business performance mediated by digital innovation for event/MICE company organizers. The results of this study are new findings (novelty) because, in the previous research, there was no digital innovation mediation variable between digital leadership and business performance for event/MICE companies. In this study, the digital innovation variable fully mediates the influence of digital leadership on business performance in events/MICE companies.

The influence of digital capability on business performance mediated by digital innovation, The result of hypothesis testing show that there is an influence between digital capability and business performance mediated by digital innovation. The results of this study

are also new findings (novelty) because in the previous studies did not involve digital innovation mediation variable between digital capability and business performance in event/MICE companies. The result is that the digital innovation fully mediates the influence of digital capability on business performance in event/MICE companies.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the statistical test results of the 7 analysed hypotheses on direct effect analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn: 1) Digital leadership has no positive influence on business performance, 2) Digital capability also has no positive effect on business performance, 3) Digital innovation positively impacts business performance, 4) Digital leadership have positive effect on digital innovation, 5) Digital capability positively influences digital innovation. In addition, the analysis of indirect influences concludes that: 6) There is a positive influence of digital leadership on business performance mediated by digital innovation, 7) There is a positive effect of digital capability on business performance mediated by digital innovation. This research provides a new understanding of the relationship between digital leadership, digital capability and digital innovation variables on business performance and shows that the digital innovation variable functions very positively in fully mediating the relationship between digital leadership, digital capability and business performance, especially for meeting industry.

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