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Master`s Thesis

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Relevance of the Thesis

Georgia is distinguished for its numerous characteristics in the world including natural diversity, endemic classifier, number of resorts, historic sightseeing, traditions and culture. These features distinctly suggest highly recreational appeal which is the reason of increasing number of tourists annually and widening their geography in Georgia.

Resorts are especially attractive among those of the recreational resources. There are more than one hundred resorts and recreation grounds in Georgia most of which are world-famous for the treatment and curative effects.

The most effective method of improving tourism in Georgia is the comprehensive research of the resorts. Only geography can help us to represent natural environment and recreational effects of each resort, making it more attractive and interesting.

There are many scientific works in resortology. The authors representing the resorts, besides the healthful effects, mention other geographical features such as location, height and air temperature. From our point of view, such an approach reduces ability to signify or use the recreational and infrastructural features of the resorts.

The purpose of the thesis is to represent, create model and plan the landscape of the Georgian resorts.

The missions to be solved are:

1. Researching geographical, natural, recreational and infrastructural features of the Georgian resorts as a first case;
2. Resort modeling according to the geographical, natural, recreational and features;
3. Landscape planning of the health resort Tskaltubo according to the relevant methodology.

The thesis consists of four chapters:

The first chapter discusses theoretical implications such as: the significance of the health-recreational resorts, the position of the geography of the health-recreational resort in the system of geographical sciences, connections to the other sciences, defining important terms to the geography of health-recreational resorts, basic types of recreational zones, some relevant points of evaluation of the recreational potential, capacity and appeal of the zone, ecology of human being and environmental conditions (especially, elements of natural environment), recreational evaluation of the elements of natural environment (including terrain, climate, vegetation and water points used in the Chapter 2 in evaluating the geographical features of the resorts), evaluation of the historic-cultural recreational resorts, components of the recreational points (used in the Chapter 3 in forming the model of the resort), recreational points and problems of environmental protection, the significance of the resort and resort

types (balneological, climatic, mixed type), geographical features of using health-recreational resources (in order to evaluate resort characteristics of the natural environment we used scoring system or quality indicator (high, medium, low), geographical features of the resort economy (in Europe, USA, Asia, Caucasus) law regulations of the health resorts and recreational points in accordance with the Georgian Legislation, potential and development prospective of health-recreational economy of Georgia.

The second chapter discusses geographical, historic-cultural, recreational and infrastructural features according to the following characteristics: recreational values (natural treatment factors, type of treatment, local natural monuments and protected areas), historic-cultural values (according to the vicinity of historic-cultural monuments), geographic and natural features (location, terrain, geological structure, climate, waters, vegetation, landscapes), infrastructural features (distance from the major urban point or airport).

The third chapter discusses the significance, meaning and characteristics of geographical modeling. It represents the common model of resort according to the following characteristics:

1. Medical characteristics including:
 - 1.1 Balneological factors
 - 1.2 Climatic treatment factors.

2. Environmental characteristics including:
 - 2.1 Natural
 - 2.2 Historic-cultural factors including:

Natural features of the landscape (terrain, climate, waters, vegetation and others), ecological conditions of the landscape (quality of transformation), comfortability (discomfortability) of the landscape which means effectiveness and field of view, number and significance of the historic-cultural points, number and significance of the natural sightseeing.

3. Economical characteristics include factors of :
 - 3.1. The existing infrastructure
 - 3.2. Workforce
 - 3.3. Management (administrative) bodies

Thus, the component of the geographic model of the resort may be **three basic** and **seven additional** elements interaction of which creates the system of the model.

The fourth chapter discusses theoretical fundamentals of landscape planning (medium scale planning) connected to the steps and forms of developing landscape plans. It represents the resort Tskaltubo as a planning object. Tskaltubo has an international importance for its balneological, climatic and recreational values. Landscape planning enables defining functional areas of the resort (according to the characteristics of producing resources,

environment protection and recreational factors) and integrated planning objectives (to maintain, develop and improve).

The reference sources are about 60 scientific works, two dozens of photos and a dozen of maps created by ourselves.