
Editorial: The green economy for sustainable development in Indonesia – the challenges and opportunities of a multidisciplinary approach

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Abstract: In this editorial we summarise and comment on papers on the general theme of the implementation of a Green Economy from an Indonesian perspective. We address the issue of the green economy and sustainable development in Indonesia which is one of the most dynamic countries in Southeast Asia (ASEAN). We have therefore compiled this special issue of the *International Journal of Green Economics*, to include seven papers, all of which use multidisciplinary approaches, the method which forms the bedrock of a Green Economics analysis. The papers build on the particular analysis found in the Green Economics Institute's Book, *The Greening of Asia and China*, which highlighted how (contrary to much of the economic literature) a green economics approach actually enhances, rather than slows down, economic development. Using the Green Economics Model, it illustrates a new perspective for understanding the contemporary and rapid Asian economic development as the new powerhouse of the entire global economy. The important elements of this process which this current volume here examines as constituent parts of this process include disaster recovery, environmental education, environmental urban planning, and environmental engineering. Additionally, in this special issue, we analyse the Indonesian experience, which

has tried to adopt and to adapt to, a green economy model and to use it to drive the evolving economy. We explore some of the challenges and opportunities in this novel process.

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Stephan Onggo's research interests are in the areas of simulation methodology (Conceptual Modelling, Modelling Paradigms including discrete-event, system dynamics, and agent-based), simulation technology (Parallel/Distributed Simulation and Web-based Simulation), simulation applications (healthcare, public sector, supply-chain, etc), and business process modelling (BPMN).

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1 Introduction

The Southeast Asian region is regarded as one of the most dynamic in Asia, which is now displaying a significant potential in terms of its economy, politic, social, and international relations (Irawati, 2011). Nowadays, it is also vital to address the importance of ecology and environment at the same time as the dynamic industrial development of Asia. This is particularly important, in order to prevent the region falling into the same negative impact traps of the long-term usage and exploitation of natural resources into which developed nations in the west have fallen (Kennet and Kamaruddin, 2012; Kennet, 2008).

Indonesia, as one of the drivers of the evolving Southeast Asia powerhouses, has significant potential to develop its growing economy in the direction of sustainable development (Irawati et al., 2011). We ascertain that in the Indonesian context, current and future economic development should be done through the green economy model and an environmentally sustainable model. This would result in much improved human-well being and social equity, thereby reducing environmental risk and ecological scarcities now and in the future (Kennet, 2012; Kennet and Felton, 2012; Kennet and Courea, 2011).

The Green economy is seen and perceived as a new paradigm and would create a sustainable economy and development. In this light, Indonesia is trying to address this new initiative model by starting to implement some of its components, for instance, renewable energy, green buildings, water management, waste management, and

environmentally business management practices (Irawati et al., 2011). Thus, Indonesia is beginning to form an economic system that respects the integrity of ecosystems and ensures the resilience of life supporting systems.

Nevertheless, this approach is not at all easy to implement. Indonesia has been trying to be more sustainable, effective, and 'greener'. However, at the same time, fascinatingly, Indonesia has also been playing a really significant role in promoting the importance of the green economy for future generations through several community initiatives, joint projects, and partnership via its government, universities, and business practitioners. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the narrative and the local context from the Indonesian experience and the challenges and opportunities in perceiving a green economy and this is the focus of this special issue.

Accordingly, in this special issue, seven papers have been chosen using this multidisciplinary approach and its structure is as follows:

The first paper highlights the topical theme of the Indonesian geographical location in the ring of fire. The paper entitled 'Durability of quality of life enhancement of social community networks after the tsunami disaster in Aceh' is by Era Nopera Rauzi and Sekiguchi Nobuyuki. It discusses how tsunami survivors have recovered and enhanced the quality of life in Aceh, the devastated province in Indonesia which was badly hit by Tsunami in 2004. It investigates how people are able to build economic vitality in the aftermath of the tragic tsunami.

The second paper is by Sri Hudaya Widihasta, who discusses the implementation of family planning, which contributes to a green economy by limiting the population, by means of a case study in West Java, Indonesia. Widihasta explores the important issue of population growth, which is still a big issue in Indonesia. This is believed to be the cause of economic problems, if it remains unchecked, and also potentially it is likely to hold the economy back in the future. She argues therefore, that family planning is very important.

The third paper focuses on the role of agriculture in a sustainable economy. The paper 'The agricultural sector as the main power of the green economy in Indonesia' by Sri Novianthi Pratiwi is very helpful. This paper investigates public awareness of the promotion of a green economy, and the attitudes of the younger generation, who have less understanding of the importance of managing the agricultural sector, as one of the oldest industrial sectors in Indonesia. This problem is being echoed all over the world as young people come away from the land and the life of farming and go into the cities and into other sectors of business. It is a problem almost everywhere and we are losing a very high percentage of farmers every year and the paper charts the details of how this process happens as it happens and so is a vital contribution to the literature and to human well being in future. As it's much easier to prevent if we can understand in detail how it occurs.

Indeed, one of the current authors of this journal issue, attended a high level conference this week, *Langenberg Forum 2013, Sustainable Resilient Local Farming* where Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, spoke about the need to support farmers and traditional farming methods everywhere in the face of the pressure to turn agriculture into 'agribusiness'. Agribusiness focuses on quantity rather than quality and also on price almost to the exclusion of other factors. However, to do so, it relies on high tech inputs, chemicals and antibiotics as the animals are generally stressed to the point of disease needing constant lifelong medication (Tracy Marchioness of Worcester, in Gale de

Oliveira, Blankett-Ord and Kennet 2013), rather than smaller scale local or organic production which tends to create and maintain steady and regular local jobs with healthy animals and soil.

The most innovative paper 'Relocation for a better livelihood: a case study of street vendors in local authorities in Indonesia' by Tutik Rachmawati is an innovative paper which is very charming and focuses on economy and the vital and fascinating role of street vendors in promoting their role in developing an informal and locally strong and sustainable economy. The paper sets out to unpack a new conceptual understanding of the place of street vendors' place in a modern economy. Using case studies and actor perspective analysis, it sheds light on issues such as street vendor empowerment and a restructuring programme particularly in developing countries such as Indonesia.

The next paper is by Annisa Rahmawati and concerns the Indonesian cohesion policy, designed to address forest management in Indonesia. It focuses on the Ecosystem Restoration Concession (ERC), a new type of licence introduced in 2004. This licence is aimed at tackling the very high rate of deforestation in Indonesia's production forests. Moreover, this paper examines the business feasibility of ERCs using a cost benefit analysis method.

Paper six is entitled 'Mangrove conservation: reconstructing formal, informal and non-formal environmental education in order to foster the development of a creative economy in Indonesia' by Ifan Rikhza Auladi. It argues that public awareness and green economic empowerment through mangrove conservation are important tools for sustainability and the development of a green economy. The paper also illustrates the importance of empowerment among actors involved in the mangrove conservation programme in Indonesia.

The final ground breaking paper takes an entirely novel approach towards corporate social responsibility, and attempts to integrate religious norms and practical approaches into it, in the light of the high prevalence and importance of Islam in the religious life of many Indonesians. Sartini Wardiwiyo explains in detail how the Islamic approach works in dealing with sustainability issues in commercial practice and how it could be combined with CSR approaches. An understanding of this issue is very important in one of the most populous, young and dynamic Muslim countries in the world which has a significant proportion of its people within this cohort. It examines embedded shared norms and values in Indonesia, which has one of the largest Muslim populations in the world.

2 Conclusion

This special issue attempts to link the seven papers together and to relate them within the context of the current contemporary implementation of sustainable development and the developing green economy in Indonesia. The discussion of the green economy in an Indonesian context forms an important overview of what happens at both the micro and macro levels both in this country. Furthermore, these experiences are a very useful contribution to the literature and could be used as a model to inform or even predict or advise about the likely outcomes when a green economy is considered elsewhere as well.

A multidisciplinary perspective for an understanding of the green economy is critical, due to the complexity of the issues which are faced by Indonesia if it wants to sustain better and longer-term economic development. What is evident from these papers is the need or recommendation that all the relevant stakeholders should be included and involved in this process, including multi-layered government, universities, business practitioners, NGOs, and the Indonesian people working together.

This special edition also is particularly focused on stimulating and spreading further debate and discussion about the green economy in other Asian countries, particularly in the Southeast Asia region, which all face similar challenges in creating more sustainable and greener cities, during a time of particular economic flourishing and development. The special innovation in this set of papers has been to try to create a new body of literature which indicates how sustainability and the implementation of a green economy actually are going hand in hand with economic and social development today and indeed compliment each other. Much previous literature has tended to focus on how these elements are not compatible. Indonesia is a fascinating case study which illustrates how the world is changing and how its programme of Green Economics is leading its economic development and also its sustainability simultaneously. This crucial debate is continued in our book *The Greening of Indonesia* (Irawati et al., 2013).

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