

## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Rukuh Setiadi is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Universitas Diponegoro, Indonesia and researcher at SDGs Centre of the university. He is interested on the intellectual space between urbanisation and governance in various contemporary urban topics such as climate change, green economy, food security and waste to energy. He gained training, research and planning experience in a number of projects funded by national and international organisations such as the Astra International, Bappenas, Bintari, GIZ, IIED, MercyCorps Indonesia, Palladium, Rockefeller Foundation, UCLG-ASPAC, UN-Habitat and World Bank.

Uchendu E. Chigbu is an Associate Professor in Land Administration at the Department of Land and Property Sciences at Namibia University of Science and Technology, Windhoek. He Co-Chairs the International Training and Research Cluster of Global Land Tool Network. He also Co-Chairs the Urban-Rural Dependency Working Group of International Federation of Surveyors (Commissions 8). His key research interest is around the socio-spatial aspects of land administration and property studies (including land management, policy and governance).

Micah R. Fisher is a core faculty in the Program for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He also holds a joint position in the Forestry Department at Hasanuddin University in Indonesia, where he serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Forest and Society*, a journal with an area focus of under-represented regions in Southeast Asia. His research interests centre on sustainability dimensions of landscapes and watersheds, and the livelihoods that shape them across the rural and urban interface. He is also leading a major study on Integrated Urban Water Management for the World Bank in Indonesia.

Eric Chu is an Assistant Professor of Community and Regional Development and Co-Director of the Climate Adaptation Research Center at University of California, Davis. He studies how local governments and communities plan for and adapt to the impacts of global environmental change. He currently serves as the lead author in Working Group II of the Sixth Assessment Report to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

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This special issue of *World Review of Science, Technology and Sustainable Development (WRSTSD)* examines the socio-ecological sustainability of rural development in the 'urban century'. The New Urban Agenda, which was adopted in Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (2016), committed to ensuring that "the benefits and opportunities that cities can offer" [UN, (2017), p.4] should be equally accessible to all people, including those who live in rural areas. It also urged the integration of urban and rural development "to foster equitable regional development across urban-rural continuum and fill social, economic and territorial gaps" [UN, (2017), p.15]. The classic idea of rural-urban linkage strategies (Douglas, 1998), which embraces socio-spatial connectivity between people and places and seeks to achieve more spatially balanced development and improved living conditions in both rural and urban contexts, remains relevant. However, these linkages are now challenged by the rapid pace of urbanisation and its consequences.

What are the patterns of rural-urban linkage in this 'urban century'? What are the implications of rapid urbanisation on the sustainability of both urban and rural development? These are the original questions proposed to this special issue. In addition, this special issue aims to investigate initiatives, innovations, policies and strategies for responding to the consequences of rapid urbanisation in rural and peri-urban areas that help to shape better outcomes (e.g., improved quality of life and livelihood opportunities) and sustainability in the urban age.

This special issue of *WRSTSD* contains five articles which cover several aspects of rural development in the 'urban century'. Most of the cases in this special issue come from regions in Indonesia, representing various contextual characteristics of rural areas, such as rural areas along the development corridor of major cities, rural areas with distant proximity to metropolitan or special regions which are experiencing hyper growth, and rural areas in a relatively remote region. In addition to land use conversion and change, a number of rural development outcomes in terms of poverty, quality of life and livelihoods are discussed. This special issue is trans-disciplinary. It will be relevant beyond the academic disciplines in regional planning, development studies, geography, urban studies, rural studies, environmental studies, land and natural resource management, and international development.

The first paper by Buchori et al. analyse the correlation between urbanisation along the development corridor between Semarang and Solo, which has attracted industrial investment, and the shifting population income in the corridor between 2008 and 2018. Using the combination of GIS and statistical analysis, the study shows that industrial development as a driver of urbanisation in the corridor has failed to deliver prosperity for the rural population. It highlights the importance of achieving positive development impacts for rural populations living along urbanising corridors.

The next two papers provide case studies on the impact of rapid urbanisation. Wibisono and Sulistyana analyse the impact of rapid urbanisation in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, which resulted in uncoordinated urban enclaves on previously rural agricultural lands. The simultaneous marginalisation of farmers and ecological degradation of agricultural lands are attributed to increasing capital flows for investment, not only from the region itself but also from outside, especially Jakarta. The contribution by Murti in this special issue focuses on the shifting perception of urban society on the meaning of the *dead*, leading to increases in the value of land significantly in rural and peri-urban areas for the purposes of developing cemeteries.

The fourth paper by Insani et al. assesses and compares livelihood resilience of rural coastal communities. It highlights the importance of supporting livelihood resilience of rural communities alongside developing protective infrastructure. In the final paper, Taufiq et al. explores the governance aspects of rural development, promoting the role and opportunities from deliberative village planning and village budget allocations. Deliberative processes that stimulate the transfer of technical knowledge from urban planners to rural citizen deliver better outcomes for rural development as citizens were able to decisions in ways that more closely align with their local knowledge.

There are some lessons that we learnt along the way. First, papers in this special issue successfully highlight some challenges faced by rural communities in a more urbanised world. Some research is consistent to prove the physical changes of rural and peri-urban regions and its impacts to the socio-ecological system of the regions. Second, we notice that governance arrangement in and for rural and peri-urban regions remains one of important strategies to rural and peri-urban development. Third, emerging research (e.g., in rural resilience) should not be treated in isolation of wider rural-urban linkage which is multi scales. Last, in addition to the need for more engagements with governance issues, there remains question on the solutions for responding to the consequences of rapid urbanisation in rural and peri-urban areas particularly with recent change triggered by COVID-19. It has raised new questions about these rural-urban linkage dynamics that scientific communities in the field should give some insights. What elements of rural-urban linkage which are seriously affected by COVID-19 and how does rural-urban linkage affect both positively and negatively on efforts to deal with COVID-19, are some worthwhile questions for advancing this issue.

The guest editors would like to close by thanking all the authors who contributed to this special issue. We also grateful to the Chief Editor of *WRSTSD* and reviewers who worked very hard in reviewing papers and providing feedback for authors. We hope that the papers in this special issue will serve as a valuable reference for researchers across different fields.

## References

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