INTRODUCTION
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Current Issues and Strategies on Rural and Urban Development in Southeast Asia

In developing and middle-income countries, development of rural and remote areas are often faced with the limited and decrease in the number of population, as well as the efforts to promote regional growth and rural/regional attractiveness in order to counterbalance the magnet of urbanization to urban areas. On the other side, rural areas are urged to maintain their function as food producers and manage their natural resources and environment in a sustainable manner. Meanwhile, urban areas in developing and transforming countries are faced with problems of slum settlement, urban poor, provision of environmental facilities and infrastructure, and land use control.

This edition of JP2WD covers 9 articles that pictures issues and strategies on rural and urban development in Indonesia and Malaysia that reflects the current situation of developing countries or countries that are or have transitioned to become middle-income countries in Southeast Asia. An article reviews local development strategies which covers both urban and rural areas in Malang regency in Java island, four articles discuss issues of rural areas, and four other articles discuss issues of urban areas.

Latuconsina’s article reviews the development of Malang regency, which is one of the most dynamic regencies in East Java province. Malang regency has 3 regions with different characteristics, which needs different development approaches. Each of the regions has different factors that determine its development performance as measured through Human Development Index (HDI). The most significant factor in determining HDI are health facilities and infrastructure at urban areas, improvement of elementary school facilities and population density at peri-urban areas, and the existence of healthcare human resources at rural areas.

Four articles, written by Rusdiana et al., Echok et al., Lukman et al., and Ekosavitri et al. respectively discusses development issues at rural areas in Indonesia and Malaysia. The first two articles study rural regions in Kalimantan (Borneo) island, one in Indonesia side and another in Malaysia side. Both papers encounter the problem of limited number of population in rural areas. The other two articles review rural areas in Java island based on agriculture and plantation potential, respectively in Tasikmalaya Regency and in the coastal area of Jepara Regency.

Regions in Kalimantan island that are directly bordered with Malaysia, encounters problems such as illegal logging, human trafficking, drug smuggling and national border conflicts. In their article, Rusdiana et al. discuss the development problems of Mahakam Ulu Regency, which has a unique characteristic since the regency is located at the border area with limited accessibility and is a relatively new formed regency. Mahakam Ulu is dominated with tropical forest with rich biodiversity, where the forest coverage decreases significantly during the last three decades as a result of illegal logging. Approximately 89.2% of its area is still covered with forest, consisting of 67.4% primary forest and 21.82% secondary forest. With an area of 1.8 million hectares, the regency is only inhabited by 25,970 population in 2015 and decreasing gradually. This regency is urged to discover new development resources that are legal and more sustainable. The article discussed that the regency has plenty of development potential, especially on the agriculture and plantation subsectors. The forestry development potentials are the development of community forest with non-timber forest products (NTFP) as the main commodity, environment service
business through ecotourism, utilization of timber forest products and NTFP, as well as development of customary forests.

The problem on limited number of population is also discovered in the article by Echoh et al. in the case of Iban people which resides on the other side of Kalimantan island in Kuala Tatu, Sarawak, Malaysia. Despite located quite far from the urban area, the sustainability of food security in its rural area is threatened by the high urbanization rate and modernization. Paddy agriculture encounters big problems, such as the decrease in the number of farmers and the weak subsidy distribution system. Two villages were discussed in the article and different results were discovered in their inadequacy of agricultural field, problems in their drainage and irrigation system, dependency on the distance of village to the urban area, transportation facilities, and other issues.

Tea plantation in rural areas have large potential in regional development. Nevertheless, development planning in the area shall be guided to bring an effective result. Lukman et al. reviews the development potential of the 6,956-hectare tea plantation in Tasikmalaya Regency, West Java Province. The suitable land for tea plantation development is 55,310 hectares and there is a further potential 14,979 hectares. Financial feasibility study shows that smallholdings plantation system (household based farming system, perkebunan rakyat) is feasible to be developed. Therefore, the government is expected to facilitate the increase of farming profit and the development of its processing industry. Tea smallholding plantation areas can be increased further through the development of regional potentials based on priority scale. The role of tea farmers as well as large private plantation estates shall also be emphasized more.

Rural areas in the coastal regions encounter particular problems. Ekosafitri et al. conducted a study on a coastal rural-domination regional development in Jepara Regency on the northern coast of Central Java province, particularly related to local infrastructure. Areas in the northern coast of Jepara Regency are mainly more developed than the inland areas as seen from analysis on its district development level (based on infrastructure provision). The analysis shows that four coastal districts in the regency are in the highest regional development hierarchy. Analysis on stakeholder perception shows that infrastructure provision and maritime tourism are the priority activities that shall be developed in coastal areas, particularly in Karimunjawa district.

The following four articles analyze urban problems faced in Indonesia, which are slum settlements, poverty, health, and waste. Wihadanto et al. discussed ‘Kampung Braga’, one of the slum settlements located in the heart of Bandung City. The settlement is located in a shape of an enclave along the tourism area of Braga street at Cikapundung riverside. Most of the people who live at Kampung Braga work as merchants with relatively low education and income level. The settlement is highly dense and mostly in and not habitable condition, where most dwellings are under 45 m² inhabited by 8 persons (2 households). Minimum facility and infrastructure is shown by the poor access to roads, clean water, waste, drainage and open green spaces. Most of the buildings are unorganized and some are located on the river border. Therefore, Kampung Braga needs to be transformed to become a better settlement with better life quality.

Poverty alleviation efforts in Indonesia in the last decade is faced with the slowdown tendency on poverty declining rate. On the other hand, government budget allocation for poverty alleviation has been increasing constantly. Therefore, in order to improve the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation programs, uniformity of the policies shall be avoided. In addition, locality and spatial dimension shall be paid more attention. Harmes et al. in their article reviews the spatial effect on the poverty by considering the autocorrelation of spatial factors related with poverty in the case of Bengkulu City. The study shows that a clustered autocorrelation pattern occurred for the poverty data of Bengkulu City. This means that sub districts located close to each other have a relatively similar characteristic of poverty. Local spatial effect test by Local Indicator of Spatial Autocorrelation (LISA) index shows only a few sub districts that have autocorrelation, meanwhile
the others do not. Cluster mapping shows that sub districts with high poverty rate and surrounded by relatively similar rate of poverty sub districts (high-high condition) occurs at the southern part of the city, low-low condition occurs in the center part, low-high condition occurs at the eastern part, while high-low condition occurs at the center part. Each condition of poverty characteristics requires a different approach on poverty reduction efforts.

The accessibility level of citizen to city facilities and infrastructures can be visualized easier by utilizing web-based information technology. Trisminingsih and Sagala reviewed the access level or accessibility index to health facilities in Bogor City and visualizes it by utilizing Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) method. It was discovered that 2.27% of grid area and 8.46% of sub districts in Bogor City have low access to all health facilities. From the visualization, it is shown that Mulyaharja sub district has the low accessibility index in the city.

In addition to infrastructure problems, a rapidly growing Bogor city also faces land use control issues, including the conversion of agriculture land which are considered to be maintained since the multi-benefit of rice fields. The protection of rice fields area is regulated through Local Regulation on Bogor City Spatial Plan (RTRW) 2011-2031 but its implementation is less effective, thus and economic instrument is needed. Study by Hidayati et al. discusses budget strategies as one of the fiscal instrument for spatial control. Rice fields conversion in Bogor city is dominated by conversion to housing (1,137.33 hectare or 47.08%) and other agricultural crops (254.28 hectare or 10.53%). Productivity of rice field as well as the existence of built-up areas affect the conversion of rice field in the city. The budget realization of Bogor City Agricultural Agency does not play a significant role in protecting rice fields. Rice field conversion control shall be conducted through the selection of budget strategy priorities that includes socialization, formulating local regulation, sharing with the central/provincial government, promoting the role of the private sectors, budget supervision, land banking, and incentives-disincentives for farmers.