PREFACE

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Disparity, Regional Potential, and Community Resilience

The initial edition of Journal of Regional and Rural Development Planning (JP2WD) covers 9 articles that pictures the current variety of research topics concerned by researchers in the field of regional and rural development planning. The articles cover critical studies on regional development disparity, regional potential, and community resilience in facing the pressure of change.

Critical review on regional and rural development policies in Indonesia is reflected in an article by Priyarsono that highlights the “Membangun dari Pinggiran” or “To Develop from the Periphery” strategy and the rural development strategy implemented as the answer to national development disparity problem in Indonesia in the era of President Joko Widodo. Priyarsono interprets the “Membangun dari Pinggiran” policy as a strategy to increase the intensity of economic activities particularly in rural areas in order to create economies of concentration by presenting literature reviews on regional development theories related to the policy. Finally, the article brings up several research questions that could be followed up with hypothesis formulation and testing based on empirical research.

Refita, Siregar, and Suroso evaluate the “Sarjana Membangun Desa (SMD)” or “Bachelors Develop Villages” program, a program that has been implemented in Indonesia since 2007. The study result shows that SMD has not been implemented based on the region’s potentials, thus has not been effective in achieving its goal. Factors that cause these ineffectiveness are identified, and the main strategy proposed to improve the effectiveness of SMD program is to strengthen human resources through training and counseling.

Poverty and lagging issues are not only at periphery and rural regions, but also is a common issue at urban areas. Ramadiani and Mardiansjah conducted a participatory poverty assessment on rural-urban transitional area in Sragen regency, which is found to have different characteristics from poverty at urban areas and rural areas. Policies in such areas should not only relate to the provision and improvement of urban facilities and living environment, but also should focus on labor development, including improvement of labor competency and asset utilization for business development.

Concern on disparity issues are also brought up by Soares, Rustiadi and Mulatsih in relation to the regional development of Timor-Leste. The study analyzes disparities, interactions and spatial structures in Timor-Leste, which is reflected through the domination of Dili City, resulting in high disparity level between districts in Timor-Leste. The high disparity level is discovered to be caused by the lack of public facilities, access equity to public services, and spatial interaction.

Among the studies on regional potential in this edition, there are articles that concerns the tourism sector, food security, and disaster mitigation. The first article that concerns tourism potential is the article by by Adinugroho, which studies 6 relatively disadvantage subdistricts in the southern part of Gunungkidul regency. Tourism is proved to be one of the alternatives to increase economic development in the area. Between 2007 and 2013, the number of tourists increased and the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in trade and entertainment sector increased drastically. Despite so, it is shown that the number of visits did not necessarily relate to the increase of GRDP. The second article concerning tourism sector is the article by Zulfikar, Prasetiyo, Shelvatis, Komara, and
Pramudawardhani that discusses the economic valuation of environmental service-based tourism at Batu Karas beach, Pangandaran regency. Results showed that the most influential factors that affects the level of tourist demand to Batu Karas beach are travel cost, distance and duration in the location. Economic potential and surplus value of ecotourism consumers at the beach reaches a quite high value and brings socio-economic improvement to the local community.

Physical study on regions hold a significant role in regional development, including in valuating regional potential to support food security and disaster mitigation. Article by Ardiyansyah, Sahirman, Rif’an and Melmambessy discusses land suitability for paddy plantation in Semangga district, Merauke regency and identifies treatments needs to be taken to promote land suitability classes at the area. It is found that about 15,000 hectares or 63.8% of the area are suitable for paddy development. This finding on land suitability classes and its dominant inhibitory factor can be used to further determine the proper land treatment planning such as fertilization, liming, and drainage system design. Tjahjono, Barus, and Darojati assessed the level of dryness in Indramayu regency by using Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and its relation with the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI). SPI values obtained from various time scales shows strong relation with the SOI value that indicates a prolonged El Nino which occurred in 1997 and 2002/2003, the area was in a "being dry" to "dry extreme" drought state.

The importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in area development is shown in the article by Asirin dan Argo, especially related to the livelihood resilience of fishermen in facing climate change and other pressures. Based on the case study of Eretan Wetan village in Indramayu regency, it is discovered that fishermen that are used to ICT can improve their access to information, enhancing knowledge, enhancing and maintaining network and cooperation, and facilitating participation in the community, and eventually experiencing learning process. The capability will then enable fishermen to redevelop access, assets, and self organization capability. These process will be cyclic and accumulate to strengthening their livelihood resilience.

This journal is initiated and managed by 4 institutions inside Bogor Agricultural University: Study Program of Regional and Rural Development Planning Sciences (PS PWD); Study Program of Regional Planning Sciences (PS PWL); Center for Regional Systems Analysis, Planning and Development (CrestPent/P4W), and the Association of Regional and Rural Development Planning Alumni (HAPWD). Hopefully this journal will enrich fields related to regional and rural development planning in Indonesia and the world. Please enjoy!