

Editor's Note

Hideki Kaji
Director
UNCRD

This is the third issue of *Regional Development Studies (RDS)*. It is indeed encouraging to note the wide range of topics concerning various aspects of regional development contained in this volume. During the process of classifying these articles into the relevant sections, it was realized that some of the topics were being included in the *RDS* for the first time. Under the five broad headings of: Regional Development and Planning; Decentralized Management and Governance; Infrastructure and Housing Development; Population and Development; and Development Aid, authors have tackled such diverse themes as rural industrialization and global markets, post-Fordism and innovative industrial space, the new local governance, depopulation in rural areas of rapidly industrializing countries, and the relationship between infrastructure improvement and regional development. In line with the journal's stated policy, the contents combine in-house research work by UNCRD staff and researchers with relevant material solicited from outside contributors. In addition to the four articles by authors currently at UNCRD, three other contributors are former researchers at the Centre — Sun Sheng Han and Kim Doo-Chul, while David W. Edgington is a former visiting research fellow.

This issue deals with a similarly impressive range of geographic regions with material from both Africa and Latin America as well as general articles and case studies from Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Nepal, and Republic of Korea, in Asia. The authors' professional backgrounds, likewise, bring to the journal a rich array of development-related disciplines, ranging from geography to sociology.

Four articles constitute this issue's first section, "Regional Development and Planning". Etienne L. Nel provides an insight into regional development policy impacts in post-*apartheid* South Africa. Focusing on the former "Homelands" of Ciskei and Transkei (now incorporated into the Border-Ciskei-Transkei region), the author examines the effects of industrial location during the *apartheid* era and concludes that South Africa represents an "anti-model" for regional development. He provides a range of policy options to address the problems of backward regions.

Nepal is the focus of Ek Raj Ojha's article which contains a broad-brush account of the country's development history. Planned development was embarked upon for the first time in 1956 but the country only experienced a parliamentary

form of government in 1990 when the nation moved away from the *Panchayat* system. The author succinctly observes that the land-locked nation is "still passing through a critical transitional stage" of development. The article also contains an evaluation of previous economic development initiatives.

Next, Constance Lever-Tracy, David Ip, and Noel Tracy provide a sociological perspective to rural industrialization in China's coastal provinces. The "partnerships" struck among entrepreneurial peasants, village government officials, and what the authors refer to as (Chinese) "diaspora" investors augur well for local economic development (LED). Their central thesis is that localism rather than privatization seems to be the principal engine of growth.

Under the framework of what can be considered as a contribution from Western experience, David W. Edgington provides the final article in this section, focused on the Chukyo region of Japan. Housing up to 15 per cent of Japan's manufacturing capacity, the region's corporate organization is made up of what the author calls "flexible industrial districts" rather than the "new industrial districts" common to Western experience. The post-Fordist tendencies to adopt flexibility measures are highlighted, along with the institutional devices used by firms in various industries in the region to mobilize resources and information.

The second section, "Decentralized Management and Governance," contains two articles which synthesize several studies from primary and secondary sources. The first, by Josefa S. Edralin, focuses on the new local governance as a guiding concept and strategic planning and management as a tool for capacity-building in developing countries. Evidence from research in Africa, Asia, and Latin America is analysed and discussed. The second article in this section, by Claudia Hoshino, fills the language gap created by the difficulty of gaining access to case studies in English on the Latin American experience. Her article is based upon case studies originating from a UNCRD research project and her findings are the result of discussions during seminars and workshops organized as part of this project. It can be seen as a synthesis of various examples of successful local and regional development planning within the context of the Latin American decentralization process.

The three articles which make up the "Infrastructure and Housing Development" section are all case studies, two at the national level, China and India, and one at the municipal level, Benin City in Nigeria. The first, by Sun Sheng Han, contains a statistical analysis of data from thirty Chinese provinces over a nine-year period. With a view to determining the impact of various economic and social infrastructure on regional development indicators, the author produces some suggestive results from his analysis. Next, a case study of Benin City by Vincent I. Ogu reflects a concern for the sustainability of urban infrastructure and services. The author outlines privatization and community-based schemes which are taking root in the city. Constraints are discussed which usually result from the increase in urban migration from other parts of the country. Following the Nigerian article is a critical review of Indian housing policy and programmes jointly authored by T. Anantha rajan and Tetsuo Seguchi. Using data from Madras, they claim that current national

Editor's Note

policy "will have very little effect on the shelter situation of low-income households". The authors see a possible solution to the problem through private sector involvement in housing construction with the government playing an "enabling role".

Korean and Japanese experiences are documented in the next two articles which make up the "Population and Development" section. Kim Doo-Chul presents an analysis of the depopulation phenomenon in the Republic of Korea in a comparative perspective with Japan's experience. This analysis may shed light on the sort of transformation that other rapidly-industrializing countries can expect to experience. The author concludes that, in Korea's case, national policies rather than market forces have been responsible and that the time element rather than the spatial dimension explains the regional population dispersion. Focusing exclusively on Japan, Monday Ohi Asikhia formulates population projections within the context of the country's rapidly aging population with a view to determining the relative accessibility of elderly people to medical facilities. He uses a production-constrained spatial interaction model focused on Hiroshima Prefecture.

Lastly, the "Development Aid" section contains a single article, a contribution from Haider Ali Khan which, through a macroeconomic analysis of Japanese bilateral aid to Bangladesh, seeks to determine the effectiveness of such aid on the latter's development. The author's aggregated model promises to bring fresh insight to the way in which aid can affect both the development and nondevelopment expenditures of developing countries.

It is to be hoped that these twelve articles which together constitute the third issue of UNCRD's newest journal will be a useful contribution to the regional development literature. It should be noted, in addition, that, commencing with volume four, *RDS* will appoint an International Editorial Advisory Board which will serve for a period of two years. Comprised of scholars and professionals engaged in regional development and planning, the Board will provide direction to the journal's in-house committee on policy matters and suggestions as to referees of prospective articles. The *RDS* will continue its policy of maintaining a pool of referees, as in the first three years.

Finally, this issue of *RDS* comes off the press shortly after the sudden demise of one of UNCRD's pioneer staff members, Nagamine Haruo, who served as physical planner from the Centre's inception in 1971 until 1983. Most recently, he was a professor at Suzuka International University. He will be sadly missed by all colleagues, both past and present. We would like to dedicate this issue of *RDS* to his memory.