

Editor's Note

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The selection policy for the articles in each issue of *Regional Development Studies* (RDS) is not based on their subject areas but principally on the basis of their quality and relevance to the research topics of regional development, as they are judged by the referees appointed for each article. This is the fifth volume of RDS and, like its predecessors, it contains articles by UNCRD research staff as well as contributed articles by outside scholars and practitioners. The articles' subject areas are hereby introduced in terms of their positions within the regional development planning framework.

It is interesting to note that rather than addressing general aspects of regional development planning as a comprehensive subject area per se, the majority of articles in this issue discuss certain techniques or tools for regional development analysis, examine sectoral aspects or components of regional development, or survey regional development from specific economic or social points of view. The articles are therefore arranged into three groups on the basis of the following broad classifications: (a) Tools for Regional Development Analysis, (b) Sectoral Approach to Regional Development, and (c) Specific Aspects of Regional Development.

In the first group of articles are H. D. Karunaratne's, which focuses on sectoral diversity of income inequality using Sri Lanka as a case study, and N. S. Cooray's, which is a study on econometric modelling for policy analysis and planning, also from Sri Lanka. Both articles show how to apply economic theories in both a quantitative and qualitative sense to analyse certain regional development phenomena. Eric J. Heikkila's article on a new human development index, for which he uses the lower case acronym "hdi" rather than the familiar HDI, also belongs in this group. Readers will be interested in the way he explains how a human development index has been developed for a few thousand people, departing from the HDI for nation-states. He emphasizes the importance of district-level planning alternatives measured by their human development outcomes.

The second group of articles, on sectoral development, focuses on two major sectors — "infrastructure" and "tourism". Two articles are on infrastructure development; one by Sun Sheng Han, on the impact of infrastructure on regional development in the Yellow River Delta, in the People's Republic of China (hereinafter, China) and the other by Matouq Mohammed, which discusses water resource development in Jordan in relation to the Middle East peace process. Han delineates the impacts of institutional and physical infrastructure and discusses the establishment and rise of

Dong Ying City in the delta region. Three articles present cases of tourism development. Xu Gang and Erdmann Gormsen, in their article on the role of tourism in regional economic development, and Nami Tanaka, in her article on tourism development in a developing country, examine detailed case studies from, respectively, China and Sri Lanka. The third article, by Yasunori Minagawa and Nami Tanaka on the application of geographic information system (GIS) technology to tourism development planning, although on tourism development, really focuses on the use of GIS tools for selecting tourist development locations, and may also be classified in the first group, i.e., "tools for regional development planning".

The third group of articles on specific aspects of regional development comprise those by Shadiullah Khan and Morton R. Davies, who write on the role of Pakistani local government in rural development; Chandra Rodrigo's article on Sri Lankan females in overseas employment; and Chen Lihua's article on China's social security system. These articles look at specific aspects of the role of local government in rural development, and the social aspects of regional development planning, particularly concerning gender issues and a social security system related to employment. It is encouraging to see articles addressing gender and employment issues, two areas of regional development concern which tend to escape many researchers' attention in regional development planning.

Looking from another point of view, readers will discover that articles in this issue are concentrated in specific countries in Asia, notably three from China, four from Sri Lanka, and two from Indonesia. The remaining two focus on Pakistan and Jordan. It is instructive that all writers try to illustrate their subject by using one particular country as a case study, and in most cases endeavour to extract lessons which could be applicable to all developing countries. It is certainly to be hoped that, in future, *RDS* will contain articles on developing countries in more diverse parts of the world. In this regard, we are pleased to note the article on Jordan which explains the close link between water resource development and management and the ongoing peace process in that part of the world. This article represents only the second time that *RDS* has included a study from the Middle East.

We would conclude by expressing our wish that the fifth issue of *RDS* will maintain the tradition of providing a useful contribution to the ever-widening field of regional development planning theory and practice.