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Editorial Note

# The Intersection of Informal and Programmatic Sustainable Development

Andrew Butt

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), University, Australia

EDITOR

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This edition includes case research from Indonesia and Sudan to explore the intersection of informality and policy approaches to sustainable development. Each reveals inherent tensions in programmatic approaches to urban policy alongside existing informal approaches and expectations of the community in seeking livelihoods, identity, and well-being.

Research papers by Shimizu et al. and Suprpto et al. explore the material consequences of basic infrastructure, especially water, in making and shaping urban and rural life and sustainable settlement. These papers offer perspectives on infrastructure improvements to health and economic development. However, these intersections become apparent in understanding the quality of life and links to increasing individual and community well-being across various dimensions. These papers offer useful and concrete insights into the role of basic infrastructure in shaping community prosperity.

This edition offers two valuable contributions to policy appraisal and review, which are vital but often underdeveloped components of the planning policy cycle. Garudea et al. provides an appraisal of the capacity of urban conservation policy to address contemporary needs, signaling the value of both urban identity and community life. Saharuddin provides a structured account of the Village Management Fund policy that suggests transferability and direct application to the many and varied schemes and activities that occur in Indonesia and internationally. This makes for a valuable template to adapt to measure the efficacy of programs in delivering real-world outcomes.

Lessons from long-standing, informal governance arrangements in Sudan (Elzubair and Morrad) and Indonesia (Dwiputra et al.) provide stimulating perspectives on the lessons formal policy approaches can

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ARTICLE INFO



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**THE JOURNAL OF INDONESIA  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

*Published by* Centre for Planners' Development, Education, and Training (Pusbindiklatren), Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), Republic of Indonesia

**Address:** Jalan Proklamasi 70,  
Central Jakarta, Indonesia 10320  
**Phone:** +62 21 31928280/31928285  
**Fax:** +62 21 31928281  
**E-mail:**  
[journal.pusbindiklatren@bappenas.go.id](mailto:journal.pusbindiklatren@bappenas.go.id)

*Supported by* Indonesian Development Planners Association (PPPI)

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and should incorporate or at least accommodate. In the Sudanese case, co-operatives and labour exchange models suggest pathways to increased agricultural productivity through culturally accepted practices, while the Indonesian example shows that Sundanese Indigenous laws (*Pikukuh*) have developed an environmental ethic and awareness of disaster response – a lesson that is increasingly valuable globally.

With these lessons apparent, the Commentary paper (Niko) focuses on the IKN project as a large and long-term project and the risks and impacts already being presented to established local communities in the short term, suggesting a challenging landscape for meeting sustainability objectives for this national-scale project in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals when local land and livelihoods will come under increasing pressure. These challenges demand forms of planning that explicitly recognize existing communities and their self-determination to be embedded in this significant project.

Finally, the book review (Rosiadi) addresses a recent publication that offers an international comparison of SMEs to offer an enthusiastic account of the potential for increasing digital literacy and resourcing for the private sector at the small and medium scale and the potential gains this offers.