

Editorial introduction / Overview: Special Issues on the horizontal of research and methodologies on Sustainability in Asia

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Editorial introduction

Overview: Special Issues on the horizontal of research and methodologies on Sustainability in Asia

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The eight papers in this special issue touched a variety of issues and took many approaches to deal with the new sustainability problems in East Asia. The cities and regions being introduced in mainland and Taiwan in China and Korea are good representatives of those areas largely affected by the physical and social transformation in the course of urbanization. The authors have explored the related problems from a wide range of perspectives, including urban development, environment-friendly planning, eco-tourism, community development, and cross-border cooperation. The research methodologies presented in this issue also ranged from quantitative spatial analysis with the applications of GIS and RS to qualitative analysis. The findings and proposals are expected to provide insights for other cities and regions bothered with similar problems.

[Han, Ma, and Li \(2017\)](#) selected Hanzhou metropolitan areas as the research area, which was characterized by consistent and intensive urban expansion in recent years. The authors, with keen concern on the ecosystem service of this area, discussed the decision-making of the urban growth boundary (UGB). Upon the core area extracted from LANDSAT image data and green infrastructure information, the topography, soil and vegetation layers of the region were overlaid, enabling the mapping and evaluation of the ecosystem service level. This paper also discussed the impact of setting UGB in different ways.

[Zhen, Gao, and Yuan \(2017\)](#) targeted the difficulties in redevelopment of urban built-up areas, where contradictive purposes of environmental protection and economic development were sought together and it was therefore important to develop a new and appropriate rule to keep the balance. With the example of Beijing's industrial concentration area (ICA), an environmental efficiency (EE) index for assessing the external impact of any urban subarea was proposed considering its socio-economic contribution, environmental load and environmental risk. The authors also explored the appropriate spatial unit for EE assessment in the study area, and presented how the evaluation were implemented with spatial analysis method and how the findings could lead to urban planning and spatial governance of ICA.

[Lee, Y. J. \(2017\)](#) addressed the 'resilient city' topic, a widely concerned issue for sustainable urban development on the background of climate changes. The author proposed the basic principles for the construction of resilient city through community empowerment. An in-depth literature research had been carried out, where the author contemplated previous concepts related to resilience such as vulnerability, adaptation, governance, and so forth. The policy practices to cope with climate change and community empowerment in Taiwan were also introduced. Lee highlighted the importance of integrated urban planning and land use control, the roles of governance, capacity building and financial investments for constructing resilient urban infrastructure and the necessity of stakeholder participation.

[Lee, J. H. and Son \(2017\)](#) presented the lesson of government-led ecotourism in Korea with the Maha case in Pyeongchang-gun, Korea, which once received plenty of national finance after being designated as one of ten ecotourism development model projects. From the story about conflicts between government and residents while the government was operating the site, to its eventual tuning to a resident-led ecotourism site, this paper documented the characteristics under the operation of different parties and the conflicts in different phases and compared the government-led and resident-led models with a time series Q method focusing on the intrinsic personal subjectivity. In conclusion, the authors argued that the government should not only focus on the construction of physical infrastructures for ecotourism programs but also the promotion of residents' awareness and self-regulating management by residents.

[You et al. \(2017\)](#) discussed the urban planning strategy for cross-border cooperation between mainland and Taiwan taking Pingtan Island in Fujian province, China, the National Experimental District for cross-strait cooperation as the study area. In line with the direction of internalization, the authors proposed the planning principles of sub-regional cooperation under different planning and legal systems. The operational frameworks were compared in terms of plan-making, plan-review and planning management. This paper provided useful ideas for planners and decision-makers of other cross-border regions.

[Han and Lin \(2017\)](#) addressed land use planning issue in the process of urbanization with the "scenario planning" method, whereby they attempted to identify and solve the problems with land demand and land supply in Chongqing city in southwest China. First, several scenarios were pre-set based on important factors for future city development including economic structure, land use efficiency, and land supply policy. Then, the transition of built-up area was simulated and calculated. The results of the study suggested that Chongqing should focus more on efficient land use and reasonable economic structure than the making plans of additional land development.

[Li et al. \(2017\)](#) explored the attractiveness of Beijing by investigating visitors' attitude to urban tourism communities. Unlike many other literature of satisfaction analysis, the authors paid attention to the 'dissatisfaction' of tourists toward Beijing. This different viewpoint brought new information for spatial planning and tourism management. With the rich information gained from new media and content analysis method, they well identified the reasons for dissatisfaction. For cities and communities aiming to become friendly and attractive places, this should be a very effective and useful approach to be adopted.

[Han and Shu \(2017\)](#) developed a self-adjusting approach to improve the accuracy of grid-based hot spot analysis. The authors demonstrated the scale

mismatch, shape mismatch, and location mismatch of grid analysis in detail. By using the density-based spatial clustering with a noise (DBSCAN) algorithm, the problems were effectively removed.

It could be seen that many issues being raised in this special issue, i.e., planning control for urban growth, cross-border inter-regional cooperation, redevelopment strategy of brown areas, local community empowerment, tourism development, are not specific to the study areas but common to many other areas. We hope that the perspectives, the approaches, the proposals, and the solutions being acquired from the development planning in these cases provide good lesson for other cities and regions even beyond Asia. Moreover, we hope that more developmental and thoughtful researches can be inspired by the current studies.

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