

(Main Section: Community Planning)

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journal or publication title	International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development
volume	6
number	3
page range	1-3
year	2018-07-15
URL	http://doi.org/10.24517/00053246

doi: 10.14246/irspsd.6.3_1



Editorial introduction

Community Planning

Guest Editors

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The term “community planning” appears in various disciplines. Perhaps, there is no universal definition that would be accepted by all scholars given the broad meaning of “community”, the changing players and the evolving approaches of urban planning. “Community” usually refers to people, place and the ties between people in those places. Planning was once the actions of governments for the common well-being of a place. However, in recent decades, a movement of citizen/NGO participation has deepened the practice. According to research that analyzed a total of 1,681 articles with the keyword “community planning” published from 1999 to 2014 in the fields of “Planning Development”, “Geography” and “Urban Studies” in Web of Science databases, the most discussed themes were “collaboration and participation”, “physical planning at the community level”, “special community” (such as gated communities), “safety”, “emotion and identity” (such as the feeling of belonging), “sustainable development”, “revitalization”, and “application of GIS” ([Yuan, Liu, & Lin, 2015](#)). In this sense, all the seven articles included in this special issue well fit the meaning of “community planning”.

Among the seven articles, [Tsuang and Peng \(2018\)](#) provide an interesting framework for thinking about what community planning should consider. They applied Maslow's theory of a Hierarchy of Needs to define a livable community, arguing that for the physiological needs, such as food, water, clothing and housing, the community should be a place where these materials and facilities can be obtained at a bearable cost. For the safety needs, a community should provide a safe and friendly barrier-free environment with adequate medical resources so that the residents can live and work in contentment and good health. A sense of belonging could be met by providing care facilities for children and the elderly, green leisure facilities, and common spaces, in order to enable residents to engage in exercise and social contact. The authors then link the needs for esteem with the sufficiency of educational resources and coexistence with the natural environment. Finally, the need for self-actualization is explained to be satisfied by a high-quality living environment, inclusive of sustainability, achieving the goal of self-sustained circular development of the community. They further apply a Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat (SWOT) analysis to an area of a former military plant in Taipei City, and then propose suggestions for the government to meet the needs of the people living in the social housing of the area.

[Tutuko, Subagijo, and Aini \(2018\)](#) and [Yuliantari, Hafsari, and Prima \(2018\)](#) both discuss physical planning at the community level in the context of Indonesia. The former research vividly depicts the situation of a poor area called Kampong Muharto in Malang City by providing a series of photos and maps, combined with a SWOT analysis of the area. Their design of garbage facilities, ornamental plants and childrens' playground/community centers would certainly upgrade the landscape of the place for people to meet their communication and sanitation needs. The latter research also addresses the planning of facilities, but focuses on puskesmas, the centers for public health, in an area called Purworejo in Central Java province. They analyze the factors of population distribution, geographical features, and vulnerability to natural disasters using GIS, and then apply a Spatial Multi-criteria Evaluation (SMCE) method to find the best locations for establishing the puskesmas.

The remaining five papers address comparatively higher needs for community development in China. [Wu, Qin, and Zhou \(2018\)](#) conducted a survey on people's fitness and sports activities in Shenzhen City, based on the background of growing health problems in Chinese cities such as obesity, dyslipidemia and fatty liver, high blood pressure, and so on. The survey results show high sporting frequencies of the citizens, and calls for providing more facilities to meet their diversified needs. [Yu et al. \(2018\)](#) study garbage separation in Hangzhou City. They apply the Theory of Planned Behavior to analyze the sample questionnaire results with structural equation modelling, and find that people in the city realize the need for garbage separation, but lack implementation through their real behaviors. Also concerned with the environmental impact of urbanization, [Tian and Li \(2018\)](#) investigate the reasons why less developed regions in China have showed slow development of green buildings. While low income is assumed to be the greatest impediment, on the contrary, by using both descriptive and statistical methods to analyse the questionnaire data, they find that knowledge related to green building and awareness of environmental protection have a more significant impact on the people's willingness to pay for green buildings. Thereby, they argue that governments should promote green building policies and devise instruments to support developers to adopt green building standards. In addition to the above-mentioned articles that focused on healthy and sustainable development of Chinese cities, the last paper of this issue, written by [Zou and Zhu \(2018\)](#), pays attention to the attractiveness of Changchun City to foreign students, which could be recognized as an attempt to address the "esteem" need of a community.

Most of the papers included here were presented at the biannual International Conference on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development held at Seoul National University, South Korea, during August 18-20, 2017. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the researchers who joined the conference and submitted their works to International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development. We also give special thanks to the reviewers who have granted us their most generous support with their time and valuable comments. We hope all our efforts will enhance the knowledge and practices of community planning globally.

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