

Editorial Note

Pathway Towards a Developed Country*

*) Parts on the early draft of this article is developed using generative AI applications

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The publication of current The Journal of Indonesia Sustainable Development Planning (JISDEP) edition is accompanied with record-breaking article submissions. This is really surprising particularly considering the fact that these days we have been busy with assignments mostly unplanned and imminent. For civil servants in the last three years, there has been increasing workloads (mostly administrative) caused by regulations pertaining to performance measurement. Multiple applications were introduced along with required documentations as requisite evidence to determine one's performance. That said, non-administrative works—often dichotomously called substantive works—seem to significantly increase at accelerating rate, especially approaching the end of fiscal year when everyone seems to rush for the sake of budget absorption.

Regulation on measuring performance these days tend to be overly administrative and increasingly complicated. This trend started from the last decade when the government has been committed to implement bureaucratic reform (*reformasi birokrasi*) that encompass multiple aspects of governance. Consequently, each civil servant needs to devote special time to prepare and submit their documentation. The pursuit of performance measurement inevitably leads to the seemingly never-ending endeavour which involves various amount of metrics and indexes. Challenges abound for occupations with intangible products like planners and analysts. Meanwhile, metrics using indexes as adopted in academics are not without any problem. We can still recall the cobra-effect and unintended consequences of this measurement.

Fortunately, there are still a number of civil servants who are still passionate in writing academic articles. Few amongst those contributed in JISDEP that you read at the moment. Academic journals on development like JISDEP encompass wide range of topics from public services to security. In addition, there are numbers of AI-generative applications that really help to formulate framework and compose early drafts of our articles. This can lend us a massive support for researchers to get over with writer's block and to some degree can increase productivity.

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

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Supported by Indonesian Development Planners Association (PPPI)

Themes on development particularly in developing countries are limitless and these days boundaries between topics are no longer relevant. An article on public services “Public Services Availability Linked to the Village’s Welfare” is written by Pauline Gaspersz. Meanwhile, three articles on environment are written by Hossain et al (Assessment of Domestic Water Usage and Wastage in Urban Bangladesh), Fahmi et al (Preliminary Analysis of Life Cycle Assessment on Single-Use Plastic Cutlery Set Substitutes in the Catering Industry), and Putri et al (Risk Perception in Facing Post-Disaster of Tidal ‘Rob’ Flood in North Jakarta Coastal Using Social Network Approach).

An article with emphasis on infrastructure development in this edition is provided by Sutriadi titled *Soft Infrastructure in Smart Sustainable Cities A Literature Review*. An article on nuclear energy is written by Josia. A commentary by Nur and Komariah address gender issues within the context of Bugis-Makassar culture. Last but not least, a book review by Viartasiwi on a recent publication by Istanisa (2023) on the theme of territorial conflicts in relation with provincial proliferation.

Approaching the end of medium-term development plan in 2024, it is crucial to gather contribution of thoughts from experts with many disciplines. Taking the benefit of hindsight, we can clearly see that development targets become more challenging if not nearly impossible to achieve. This is the consequence of stepping up the ladder into the group of developed nations. All in all, taking the analogy of running, the journey towards long-term development in Indonesia is a marathon, not a sprint. It is a path that intertwines the threads of tradition and innovation, sustainability and growth, human capital and technology. As Indonesia navigates this path, it is critical to remember that development is not solely about economic indicators.