

Editorial Note

Beyond Growth: Examining the Intersections of Development, Poverty, and Freedom towards Decarbonization of South-East Asian Region

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The Southeast Asian region stands at a pivotal crossroads. Buoyed by rapid economic growth, it grapples with the mounting challenges of environmental degradation, persistent poverty, and uneven development. This summary delves into these complexities, drawing from eight distinct yet interconnected studies in this December 2023 issue of The Journal of Indonesia Sustainable Development Planning to illuminate pathways towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

At the heart of this exploration lies the fundamental question: is unbridled economic expansion compatible with environmental protection and social justice? Research papers “How New Green Technologies are Changing the Indonesian Economy” by Jastacia et al. and “Exploring Sustainable Economic Growth: Promoting Green Development Productivity through Decentralized Environmental Policy and Regional Competitiveness” by Fajri et al. offer promising answers. They showcase how “New Green Technologies” are transforming the Indonesian economy, paving the way for “Promoting Green Development Productivity” through decentralized environmental policies and regional competitiveness. This shift, however, hinges on effective regulatory frameworks. On the other hand, Paper “Regulation on The Utilization of Carbon Services as A Forest Protection Effort in Indonesia” by Siagian et al. explores how “Regulation on The Utilization of Carbon Services” can incentivize forest protection, a crucial step in mitigating climate change and preserving valuable ecosystems.

Moving beyond mere economic metrics, the book review “Poverty and Freedom: Case Studies on Global Economic Development” by Komang Ariyanto and policy paper “Overview of Informal Sector Workers Viewed from Education Variables” by Dodi Satriawan remind us that human well-being remains the ultimate measure of progress. Komang Ariyanto in his book review underscores the intricate link

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between poverty and lack of agency. Similarly, Dodi Satriawan's policy paper highlights the marginalization and vulnerabilities faced by informal workers, often trapped in a cycle of poverty due to limited educational opportunities.

The search for sustainable solutions demands inclusive approaches that empower local communities. The research paper with the title "Examining Biogas Potential from Rotting Fruits for Advanced Waste Management, Environmental Conservation, and Sustainable Energy Generation" by Nugraha et al., provides a shining example. This study demonstrates how a community-based cooperative effectively tackled waste management, fostering both environmental responsibility and economic empowerment. Similarly, a commentary "Friend or Foe: Internet to Indigenous People in Indonesia (Lesson Learned from Inner Baduy Request for Internet Blackout)", emphasizes the importance of respecting and learning from indigenous communities as we navigate technological advancements. Zone-based tourism planning, as discussed in research paper, "Zone-Based Tourism Planning Using Satellite Imagery" by Kurniawansyah et al. offers another avenue for inclusive development, ensuring responsible tourism practices that benefit local communities and ecosystems.

In conclusion, this collective examination reveals a complex tapestry of challenges and opportunities for us. Embracing "Beyond Growth" as a guiding principle necessitates forging a new development paradigm, particularly for the Southeast Asian region. One that prioritizes environmental sustainability, empowers marginalized communities, and celebrates our diverse cultural values. By harnessing the potential of green technologies, decentralized policies, and community-driven initiatives, the Southeast Asian region can chart a course towards a future where decarbonization, shared prosperity, and individual freedoms converge. As we are preparing to strategize for the new year 2024, it should be reiterated that this path demands not just policy shifts and technological advancements, but a fundamental recalibration of our priorities, recognizing that true progress lies in fostering a relationship of symbiosis between humanity and the environment. Only then can we build a truly just and sustainable future for the region and beyond.