

### Editorial Note

# The New Capital and Urban Transformation in Indonesia

**Bakti Setiawan**

EDITOR

While various efforts to accelerate the development of the Indonesia New Capital/IKN in Kalimantan continue to be carried out, we must not forget the process and challenges of urban transformation faced by Indonesia. It is predicted that by 2045, around 75 percent of Indonesia's population will live in urban areas (BPS, 2019). This urban area includes more than 400 cities and will be the home to no less than 230 million people.

New approaches and strategies are needed to ensure that the urban transformation process in Indonesia produces a sustainable urban environment.

## The Challenges of Urban Transformation in Indonesia

There are at least five challenges to sustainable urban transformation in Indonesia. First, as the World Bank (2019) already documented, in the previous decades, more urbanization processes are still concentrated in several metropolitan cities such as Jakarta, Bandung Raya, Semarang, and Surabaya. In the future, a more even flow of urbanization to medium and small cities both on the island of Java and outside the island of Java will further ensure the equality and fairness of development in Indonesia.

Planning and managing sustainable medium and small cities are relatively easier to do than planning and managing a large city with all its complexity. Decentralization and quality regional autonomy will further ensure the development of cities that pay more attention to local aspirations and potentials. The development of IKN on the island of Kalimantan is expected to inspire the development of urban areas outside Java.

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**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)

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The second challenge and opportunity of urban transformation in Indonesia concern the issue of urban productivity. So far, every one percent increase in urbanization in Indonesia has only triggered 4 percent of per capita income – only half of what happens in several other countries, such as China and Malaysia (Setiawan, 2021).

In the future, the quality of urbanization in Indonesia must be improved to better guarantee and accelerate the process of transforming Indonesia into a prosperous and prosperous country. The urban informal sector must have the opportunity to improve the welfare of urban citizens in a broad sense. Cities will continue to be the engine of growth (economy) of one country. IKN is expected not only to be a vehicle for moving the capital of the government but also to provide inspiration for how to increase the productivity of an inclusive city.

Next, climate change and disasters have been and will be an important challenge to urban transformation in Indonesia. Data from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (2017), shows that in Indonesia, there are at least 90 cities located in coastal areas that are vulnerable to climate change. The city will accommodate at least one hundred million people by 2045. Urban planning and management in Indonesia should be based on climate-friendly and low-carbon concepts.

Because all parts of Indonesia are in the 'ring of fire', almost all cities in Indonesia face various potential disasters. Increasing the resilience of cities in Indonesia is a must to ensure sustainability of cities. The development of low-carbon cities and the resilience standardized for IKN must be ensured to apply to all cities in Indonesia as well.

The fourth challenge of urban transformation in Indonesia is related to heritage and identity issues. Cities and urban areas have always been the main arena for globalization and capitalism so they are vulnerable to various changes and modernizations. Cities around the world tend to be uniform and incapable of representing their history and character. This process must be watched out for and resisted.

City cities in Indonesia have been able to respond and negotiate with various outside / global forces and produce attractive and distinctive hybrid cities. Many cities in Indonesia describe a dynamic dialectic of local-global power. Although many adopt the conception of the ideal conception of urban development from the west, IKN must inspire local wisdom and Indonesian identity in building cities.

Finally, effective and inclusive governance will be the key to success in overseeing the sustainability of urban transformation in Indonesia. Jane Jacobs (1985), a well-known urban thinker from America, has been reminding for a long time, that the success of urban development will be realized if and only if all citizens of the city are given the opportunity and opportunity to build their cities.

In Indonesia, the inclusiveness of urban development is also undermined by the processes of democratization, decentralization, and regional autonomy. Hundreds of regional leaders in Indonesia are expected to be more aware and strive to improve effective and inclusive urban development governance, as well as compete to realize the many aspirations of their citizens. IKN should be a moment of transformation of open and participatory urban governance.

In the midst of the great efforts to develop IKN, we must not forget the process of urban transformation in Indonesia. The idealism of IKN-Nusantara development will have greater meaning if it is associated with efforts to ensure sustainable urban transformation throughout the archipelago. As (Glaeser, 2012) views in his book *Triumph of the City* (2012), "city magnify humanity's strengths" – IKN and hundreds of cities in Indonesia must show the strength of humanity of the Indonesian nation.

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