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## CONTENTS

- *Anthony SORENSEN, Michael SOFER (Guest Editors)* - Editorial Foreword 111
- *Adjie PAMUNGKAS* - Rearrangement of Administrative Boundaries for Reducing Inner-City Disparity: Case Study of Tanjung Pinang City, Indonesia 113
- *Sri Rum GIYARSIH, Muh Aris MARFAI* - Regional Transformation in Semarang City, Indonesia 129
- *Jiří NOVOSÁK, Oldřich HÁJEK, Jana NOVOSÁKOVÁ, Milan LINDNER* - Enterprise Support Policy and Territorial Cohesion: The Czech Republic (2007-2013) 141
- *Seong-Kyu HA, Ki-Hyun KWON* - In-Movers' Housing Choice and Gentrification in Seoul 159
- *Olga GUROVA* - The Main Tendencies of Social and Economic Transformation of Cities in the Trans-Baikal Territory 173
- *Kenichi SHIMAMOTO* - Cooperative Game Theory Approach to Establishing a Landscape Agreement 187
- Book Reviews 197

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## EDITORIAL FOREWORD

This issue of JURA is remarkably consistent in its themes, namely how to manage urban expansion or renewal and processes of economic development, particularly in Asian cities.

The countries concerned, namely Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Russia and the Czech Republic have limited exposure in the English-speaking world, but the issues they confront and their approaches to both analysis and policies will resonate with that audience. Indonesia, with its high and sustained rate of GDP growth, is unsurprisingly encountering massive but economically uneven urban expansion.

Pamungkas, for example, raises an important world-wide theme about how delineation of appropriate urban governance boundaries can improve infrastructure supply and help reduce economic development disparities within city regions such as Tanjung Pinang, his case study area.

Giyarsih and Marfai focus on a closely related theme, which concerns the differential rate of urban expansion and renewal in Semarang City, noting that investment in public infrastructure plays a key role, while appreciating greater development constraints in older and densely settled urban cores.

This latter issue is taken up by Seong-Kyu and KI-Hyun, whose article examines the redevelopment, and indeed gentrification, of Seoul's inner areas as government grapples with an urgent need for increased supply of affordable housing. Besides, as in many other parts of the world, Seoul has encountered inner area gentrification which tends to benefit upwardly mobile then highly skilled younger people.

Novosak, Hajek, Novosakova and Lindner examine another predominant theme in urban analysis, this time in the Czech Republic. Many parts of Europe, especially in the EU's most recent accession nations, face major problems of regional economic inequality and how best to promote the development of less well-off regions. But they find that government managed structural funds frequently advantage areas with strong agglomeration economies and entrepreneurial cultures rather than disadvantaged peripheries.

This neatly brings us to Gurova's analysis of urban development in Russia's Trans-Baikal territory. Although bordering on some of Asia's rapidly urbanising and high GDP growth regions, many of the cities in Trans-Baikal are grappling with population decline as many industries developed during the Soviet era struggle to survive in a market economy or under new technologies. Finally, we turn to Japan where rapid economic development and urbanisation spanning the last half century has clashed with innate Japanese cultural preference to maintain high quality rural landscapes.

Shimamoto focuses on optimal strategies for developing enforceable landscape agreements to which all parties adhere using an interesting cooperative game theory approach. We are sure that these contributions will provide much food for thought among JURA's loyal readers.

*Professor Anthony* **SORENSEN** and *Professor Michael* **SOFER**  
**Guest Editors**

