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Article

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Editorial

Global Urbanization and Urban Management

Chengri Ding, Shih-Kung Lai, Ming-Shen Wang

Cities of all size are at the heart of the dynamic economic progress associated with globalization. The formation of cities is a direct result of economic growth, particularly the rapid industrialization in developing countries. Now, for the first time in history, more than half of the world's population resides in cities. The promotion of sustainable urban development incurs a wide range of challenges as increasing numbers of people move into cities. These challenges are reflected primarily in the areas of employment, housing, infrastructure and public amenities, the environment, public health, and safety. In addition, the manner in which cities are developed and arranged spatially has considerable implications for climate change, energy use, and traffic congestion.

Although urbanization is a global phenomenon, China offers a particularly exciting model with which to examine the interaction between policy and planning as well as dynamic urban development in both spatial and non-spatial terms. Countries such as Japan and South Korea underwent rapid urbanization in the second half of 20th century, and in countries such as China and India rapid urbanization is currently progressing and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. Thus, studying the causes of these and the trajectory of future urban development has become an issue of crucial importance. Understanding how cities work and how to deal with emerging problems in urban development through policy, planning, and governance will greatly expand our capacity to cope with the thorny urban issues we are currently facing as well as those we have yet to encounter.

Our capacity to deal with urban issues involves a range of disciplines, including the fields of urban economics, housing, land use and transportation, planning, public policy, public administration, geography, social studies, emergency and disaster management, to name just a few. The Journal of Urban Management is dedicated to creating a platform on which scholars from related disciplines may exchange experiences and ideas.

Urban management is not a new term; however, it is defined here from a broader perspective. The focus of this journal is the assessment of any governmental efforts to promote sustainable urban growth and the welfare of urban residents. Governmental efforts are reflected in areas of planning, regulation, governance, administration, management, and policy. They deal with both

physical and non-physical problems in human settlements with the aim of improving efficiency in resource allocation and the promotion of social equity. Such efforts can be issue and solution driven, or visionary and strategically focused.

To gain a better understanding of cities and urban development, the Journal of Urban Management welcomes submission in theoretical inquiry, empirical research, case studies, and best practices. Given the current pace and scope of urbanization in China, research on China is the primary focus; however, research dealing with other countries is also welcome.

Rapid urbanization is an exciting and field because of the many unknowns it poses and the challenges inherent in policy and planning. It is our hope that this journal will provide a platform on which to share knowledge and inspiration in the pursuit of making cities better and ensuring sustainability. We are extremely proud to publish this first issue and look forward to continued success with the ongoing expansion of urbanization worldwide.