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in Mitigating Global Disasters*

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From the Editors

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From the Editors

Esteemed readers of SMART CITY,

Inspired by how fast the SARS-COV2 virus spreads around the world and leads to a pandemic that affects the global community socially, financially, industrially, and economically, we present to you our very first edition of our academic journal, titled *Cities and Shifts: Socio-Economic Changes During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

In the first article, Muhyi and Adiarto reviewed the existing body of literature to explore the possible nexus between the pandemic and shifts in housing preferences. While the pandemic was known to affect human activities, its impact on housing selection was unclear. Muhyi and Adiarto reviewed 52 recent empirical research to explore the relationship between the pandemic and housing selection in global urban areas. They concluded that during the pandemic, people's housing selection was driven by three main factors: fear of meeting people, fear of economic recession, and stay-at-home lifestyle. Their article had strong policy implications because it shed light on whether people's housing choices was driven more by fear of exposure to the virus, economic uncertainty and social distancing measures, or the recent shift in work-life balance caused by the work-from-home trend.

In the second article, Pratama developed a structured literature review to study e-commerce platforms and shifts in their market share during the pandemic. He also studied how recent social distancing measures taken by the government sped up the shift of consumer behavior, from shopping in a brick-and-mortar store to online retail businesses. Ultimately, Pratama provided insight on how those recent shifts affected the real estate market and how industrial facilities needed to change to accommodate these shifts. Pratama predicted how the pandemic and the development of digital technology will greatly influence industrial facilities and suggested future research to take on this theme seriously.

In the third article, Chotib, Raijaya, Muhaimin and Saputri evaluated the spatial pattern of elderly population's location before, during, and after Indonesia's large-scale social restrictions. In this very important research, they studied how the physical clustering of elderly population was strongly correlated to incidences of COVID-19 in the first wave of COVID-19 in Indonesia. More importantly, they also found that the elderly population was not only at a higher risk of being infected by, but also became central to the transmission of the virus at the early waves of the pandemic. They also found that COVID-19 cases in the early waves of the pandemic was spatially clustered around dense population centers and traditional markets. Their study taught us of the importance of educating, on top of protecting at-risk population such as the elderly and the traditional market vendors.

While the previous three articles illustrated the impacts of COVID-19 on cities, the other two helped us to think about how future cities should adapt to future challenges. With SARS-COV2 transmission being very prevalent in the 21st century, it is very important that future houses and public places to have good air quality and ventilation. However, Wardani brought to our attention the great disconnect between the interest and the demand on green building, particularly the ones with generous natural lighting and lush green open spaces. Sustainable lifestyle, sometimes associated with the option to live/work in a green building, is adopted more frequently by the educated, younger generation. However, her extensive review of recent empirical research found that most of the younger generation, despite being far more educated and entered the job market with more skillsets, were paid less and thus had less disposable income for housing purposes. With green building being offered and sold with a premium in the Indonesian market, there was a significant disconnect between those interested in it and those who were in the position to buy.

Departing from the overarching theme throughout the turn of this decade, Rachmanto further warned us about the darker side of the adoption of sustainable lifestyles. Studying an area in the downtown of Stockholm, Rachmanto conducted in-depth interviews with e-scooter users, pedestrians, and related experts including architects. While electronically-powered mobility is something many urban planners encourage, Rachmanto found that the adoption of electronic (e-)scooters in Stockholm illustrated a radical shift on transportation by creating a new and somewhat alien class of mobility. E-scooters were not yet well-accommodated by the road and at the same time its use did not create positive experience to the pedestrians on the sidewalk. Her study helped us to understand how humans' perspective on their built environment could guide future planning and design, particularly in the creation of a good environment for pedestrians.

We curated these articles with the thought on how reading them would inform you on our future cities. We hoped that you would enjoy reading them and contribute to our publication in the future.

Ahmad Gamal, PhD

Chief Editor