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Foreword from Handling Editor – 9th Edition

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**"There is no power for change greater than
a community discovering what it cares about."**

-Margaret J. Wheatley-

Dear Readers,

As human beings, we need sense of belonging, thus we are all connected in one or more elements and attributes. It is part of nurturing human connection for our survival as the necessities of life rarely come from one hand, but from a complicated mutuality. We share same resources, and issues at the same time. Handling the issues, multi-parties need to be involved in aiming certain mission and solving community problems. It takes place at three levels: the individual, the organization or group, and the community which can be influenced one another. These three levels are involved in a social exchange system and voluntarily share resources to meet their goals. Or else, they can also share the same goals and missions.

Acknowledging diversity of these individuals and groups in culture and how it produces inequalities in power should be the core to the process of community engagement. Culture is dynamic and complex, more than determining how a group's norms, behaviour, and belief distinguishes. As anthropologist have demonstrated, the meaning shared by individuals provides a rooted cultural understanding -rather than stereotypes- to gain richer insight. Thus the community engagement is multidimensional, taking place in anthropological, sociological, psychological, economic, political, ecological, and other dimensions.

Along with the understanding, *ASEAN Journal of Community Engagement* commit to bring up the idea of community engagements in many areas of research from multi-perspectives. It is an honor for us to present this edition with the new template amid the pandemic.

Opening this edition, [Babacan and Gopalkrishnan](#) brings up the current issue of pandemic and argues that wide-scale community involvement is required for a sustainable recovery and resilience from Covid-19. The article explores the benefits of community engagement in building long-term resilience and adaptive capacity as a mechanism to tackle power relations and inequality issues for vulnerable groups in COVID-19 recovery. Another attention for marginalized groups is given in the second article by [Raza](#). He proposes Multilevel Community Engagement Model (MCEM) to work with families living in multi-cultural communities in Pakistan. He introduces the complex, dynamic, and reciprocal interactions among different groups of stakeholders at three different engagement levels (proximal, influential, and holistic). The model is developed based on three empirical studies, observation, and reflections on his experience working with development agencies. Followed by third article, [Lukito and Kusuma](#) add another benefit of community involvement in designing project. They conducts participatory design project among architectural students, visitors, and zoo management in designing street furniture and selfie spots in city zoos (Ragunan, Jakarta). Participatory design is implemented in the design process to understand how the users' and designers' interpret their space, thus it can improve design outcomes and increase the community awareness of their surroundings.

In health sector, an interesting article delivered by [Irawati](#). She brings up the topic of leprosy, a chronic and progressive infectious disease caused by the infection of *mycobacterium leprae*. This is an important issue as Southeast Asia has the highest number of new leprosy cases, and

Indonesia is the third highest country in the world with leprosy. Irawati discusses one of health sector initiatives called *Identifikasi Tanda-Tanda Mata, Ekstremitas, dan Kulit pada Kusta* (KATAMATAKU) in improving health, social, and economic status of leprosy patients. The project is in collaboration of health services among multi-departments (ophthalmology, dermatovenereology, and medical rehabilitation). To extend the impact, the initiative is conducted in university level (at Universitas Indonesia) engaging multi-parties from many faculties. This program enabled the construction of multidimensional management model, in which every aspect plays important roles to improve the patients' quality of life.

To add another point of view, [Fitrianto and Samsuri](#) presents an article in community engagement from multi-perspectives of political ecology, public policy, human behaviour, and sustainability. The paper portrays how the Banyu Urip village community (in Gresik, East Java) conserve and preserve their mangrove areas. Further, it examines the way communities behave toward their environment, the economic pressures, and its local political dynamics.

Another issue in education mentioned by two articles coming from [Wong, et.al.](#) and [Haron](#) discussing community-based learning approach. Wong, et.al develops the Augmented Reality (AR) technology via mobile application in rural schools to assist teachers in increasing students' engagement, peer interactions, and collaboration. The project takes place in *Sekolah Kebangsaan Pulau Gaya*, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. It involves students and teacher in its development process. Whilst, Haron develops 'Serene Classroom' to significantly reduce the level of noise pollution for more conducive learning. The project is in collaboration with the Johor State Education Department, Ministry of Education Malaysia and industrial partners, such as Vibrant Echo Company, Sanjung Sempurna Sdn. Bhd. and DZAZ Collection and takes place in Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampong Pasir, Johor Bahru.

Last, but not least, [Lapiz](#) round off this issue by evaluating the *Kaangayan* public education on social justice initiated by The Philippine Department of Public Governance in coordination with the Research Institute of Public Governance (DPG/RIPG). The author highlights the significance of community engagement in forming public education, literacy, and participation on the issue of social justice.

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to Directorate of Administration, Data, and Management of Research Product and Innovation, Universitas Indonesia for assisting us with proofreading using ENAGO. We would also like to thank all of our authors and especially our dedicated reviewers for the contribution to this edition. Our team will continue to serve you qualified articles in community engagement, thus AJCE can further be the most authoritative journal in the field. We hope you find the issue interesting. Enjoy reading!

Warm Regards,

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Handling Editor - ASEAN Journal of Community Engagement