

EDITORIAL CHAPTER

The main theme of the current issue is community collaboration and democratic development in Asia. The five research articles included in this issue are categorized into two groups: (1) community collaboration in Asia and (2) democratic development in Asia. There is also one book review included at the end of the issue. Below are the details of each article.

Group 1: Community Collaboration in Asia: There are three research articles included in this category. The first research article is *Returned Migrant Workers' Organization and Community Development: A Case Study of Indramayu, Indonesia*, written by Khairu Roojiqien Sobandi. The article explores the creation of hometown organizations by returned migrant workers, their role in community development, and the impact of their activities in the community of origin, through a case study of returned migrant workers in Indramayu, Indonesia. It was found that returned migrant workers have greatly contributed to local development and progress through collaborative efforts facilitated by the hometown organization. The author also suggested scholars in the field to investigate more about the role and impact of returned migrant workers at both the local and national levels.

The Role of Transnational Actors in Building Climate-Resilient Cities: Case Studies on Dagupan City and Sorsogon City, written by Ebinezzer R. Florano, is the second research article included in this theme. The author asks what methods and techniques transnational actors use to cooperate with federal and local governments, local leaders, and citizens in order to prepare themselves for natural disasters triggered by climate change. The

comparison between two cities, Dagupan City and Sorsogon City, determined that collaboration between all actors is the most important factor in disaster management.

The last research article included in this theme is *Cross-sector Collaboration during Violent Conflict in the Southernmost Provinces of Thailand*, written by Thanakul Chantra. In this article, the significance of cross-sector collaboration between state authorities and local people in solving cultural conflicts is emphasized. In the context of this study, the major obstacle is the mindset of Thai government officials who tend to be skeptical about the sincerity of the local people. Unless this mindset can be changed, conflict in the southernmost Thai provinces will continue.

Group 2: Democratic Development in Asia: There are two research articles within this category. In *Is Social Media a Reform Advocate?: An Analysis Using the Rights-Based Approach*, Marizel M. Go compares how protesters in the “Million People March” and “Occupy Wall Street” used social media to organize their movements and their impact on government reform. The author further discusses how social media can lead to democratic development.

The second, and last, research article included in this theme is *Protest Event Analysis from 'Thai Rath' between 1997 and 2016: Results and methodological Challenges*, written by Jitraporn Somyanontanakul. The research aims at (1) identifying the protest events addressed in Thai Rath from 1997 to 2016; (2) determining the names of the protest groups; and (3) addressing some key arguments made by protesters. The research

findings include a comparison of protest events before the 2006 and 2014 coups. The number of protest events is far greater prior to the 2014 coup when compared to the number of protest events leading up to the 2006 coup. In the earlier time period, protest events mainly occurred in Bangkok and other main cities, while in the more recent time period, such events took place all over Thailand. The differences between the protest events in these two time periods reflects Thailand's positioning at a critical juncture of democratic development, indicating Thai people's motivation to gain access to politics.

The final section of this issue is a book review written by Sida Sonsri of Marty Natalegawa's book titled *Does ASEAN Matter?: A View from Within*. In Sonsri's opinion, the supra-national Union model employed by the author could not thoroughly explain some of ASEAN's phenomena. Therefore, Sonsri argues that a new approach or theory should be developed to better understand the development of ASEAN.

Overall the research presented in this issue will be of benefit to scholars, students, government officials, NGO workers, and those who are interested in community and political development at the local, national, and international levels.