

FOREWORD

Welcome to the fourth issue of the UP SURP's Journal in Urban and Regional Planning (JURP). This issue features three (3) articles that cover topics on disaster risk reduction, social vulnerability assessment, disaster/emergency shelter, and volunteerism. The first paper presents the importance of the systems approach in optimizing land use allocation, considering the development goals and disaster risks of a local government unit. The second paper centers on assessing the social vulnerability of barangays located in flood-prone areas using the flood social vulnerability index. The last paper discusses the challenges and opportunities of art as a development catalyst and governance tool. These studies are relevant and practical to community development and building safer communities.

This peer-reviewed journal serves as the primary platform to disseminate the School's scholarly work on sustainable practices in urban and regional planning and related fields in planning (environment, transport, estate, public works, land use, etc.).

With the service of the UP Diliman Journals Online, the JURP widens its dissemination and visibility online. To further extend the local and international reach, the UP SURP has linked the JURP online platform to online knowledge resources by non-profit organizations and research institutions such as the Socio-Economic Research Portal of the Philippines (SERP-P) of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the Philippine Social Science Council Online Resource and Open Access, among others.

I would like to acknowledge the people who greatly contributed to the completion of this fourth issue; to the Authors who entrusted us their articles; to the Reviewers who shared their valuable inputs on each article; and to the Editorial Board and the Office of Research and Publication staff who diligently laid out and edited the papers to produce the final version of the Journal.

I hope that the JURP will encourage more individuals to engage in urban and regional planning-related research that will help solve the current issues and challenges we face in the global society.



Hussein S. Lidasan

Dean

UP School of Urban and Regional Planning