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Discussing cities and regencies in the context of regional rating system. Promoting communication, reaching sustainable growth

Ridwan Sutriadi[a]*, Astri Aulia Safrianty[b], Afrizal Ramadhan[a,b]

[a]Urban Planning and Design Research Group; Schoool of Architecture, Planning, and Policy Development, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Ganesa Street 10 Bandung, Indonesia
[b]Urban Planning and Design Research Group; Schoool of Architecture, Planning, and Policy Development, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Ganesa Street 10 Bandung, Indonesia

Abstract

This paper discusses how important to describe cities and regencies (kota dan kabupaten) by using official statistical data in such a way to understand their position in the context of regional rating system within regional autonomy policy in Indonesia. Regional rating system can be seen as a creative method towards sustainable growth by accelerating or decelerating down the growth in the regional context. The global competitiveness index is adapted as a method to formulate regional rating system. Furthermore, the simplification is made to facilitate probable planning prescription with the category to accelerate, continue, or decelerate by modifying particular variables which are presented by related statistical data. In terms of performing planning prescription, it is important to understand the existing and future role of cities and regencies especially in performing development equity, reducing the dominant role of large size cities, facilitating medium sized cities, and envisioning small sized cities. Note that rating system method in terms of planning prescriptions formulation can be seen as a progress of communicative city concept, by sharing information, promoting communication, providing option, and promotingparticipation.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +62-812-204-0040; fax: +62-250-1263
 *E-mail address:*ridwansutriadi@gmail.com

1. Background

Understanding cities and regencies (kota dan kabupaten) within the context of the development of the wider region is essential to be done. Cities and regencies have a strategic value in supporting the development of their own territory and in supporting regional development. In addition, as a system, cities and regencies have a reciprocal influence and affect each other. The linkage between cities and regencies is usually in terms of producing goods and urban services. In this case, the city and regency have had an influence connectivity to the wider area.

In terms of connectivity, information and communication technology are used in order to bridge the gap. The focus of Information and communication technology is in improving connectivity between cities andregenciesas well as to the wider region. Moreover, in the context of the decentralization policy, information technology and communication aspects nevertheless bridge detail in the city-regencyin order to achieve harmonization of development among regions. Harmonization of this development is the basic idea in the development of communicative city. Relevance in the context of the development of the city and the phenomenon of communication between regions will realize sustainable development.This connectivity is part of the inter-urban polycentric city (plural centers of urban development carried outcross-town district) which was introduced in 2000s. In other words, an integrated connectivity should be identified in advance through the understanding of territorialities (entanglement between regions and cities), especially the role of small towns that are part of the existing urban system.

This paper aims to provide an overview of the role of cities and regenciesin a broader context. In this paper, the values of strategic cities and counties through a competitive index are described and analyzed as a region ranking system. This region ranking system is a method of communicating the role of cities and regenciesin the wider region. This ranking system is an integrated area of statistical data from various cities and counties as a measure of competitiveness against other regions. It can be seen as a progress of communicative city concept, by sharing information, promoting communication, providing options, and encouraging participation.

2. Communicative City Concept

Science and technology should be used effectively to solve problems and improve the quality of life[1]. The consequences of the information technology application in the production and services have changed the traditional way of doing business in the industrial, services and other organizations as well as changing daily life, even in the field of spatial planning. Information technology has been able to address the needs in the area ofspatial proximity with one another. The consequences of the application of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) in production and services will change the traditional ways of doing business in the fields of industry, services and other organizations as well as changing daily life[2]. These developments, which form the basic driving force and spatial changes, have been discussed by many scientists and futurologists. Therefore, the impact of technological developments on the development of spatial information can be utilized primarily to provide an opportunity to achieve the development goals of the city which may not have been possible before[3].

Sustainability has to be taken into account in adapting ICT for planning concern. It relates with the need to provide suitable ICT devices, industrial related ICT products and their waste, suitable ICT/telecommunication infrastructure, and adjust energy consumption. Among other thing, Jeffres[4] tried to link the need of sustainability concern with communication system as a new capital for the city in an information era, in particular to promote civic engagement, and also to see flow of influence among stakeholders. Jeffres stated, *"The notion of sustainability can be applied to communication systems as well as how communication operates to sustain social systems such as communities."* He proposes communicative city concept, with the focus to a community which environment facilitates development of a communication system that integrates its residents into a dynamic whole, which enables its citizens to get involved in civic activities and participate in a variety of roles, and makes the balance between mobility and stability possible.

On the other hand, communicative city itself seeks to understand the fundamental characteristics of the stakeholders at the municipal level[4]. The attachment of the stakeholders to the process of urban planning is as a basis for the willingness to engage and actively participate in the city planning process. An increase in communication networks among stakeholders including community groups as well as the majority of the minority must be likely to stimulate the urban economy. The development of communication systems for the urban community extends to accommodate not only the regulator/government but also the communication system with the community leaders, as