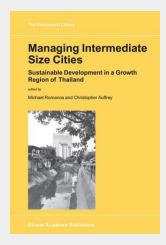
Managing Intermediate Size Cities

Sustainable Development in a Growth Region of Thailand

I am both pleased and honored to introduce this book to readers, and I want to take a few moments to explain why. Michael Romanos and Christopher Auffrey have produced a volume which will be of immense value to several different types of people. Planners and other specialists concerned with the development of the Southeast Asian region and the issues and opportunities associated with urban growth and sustainable development will find much to interest them in this book. But the book, I believe, has much wider appeal, and that is what I want to touch on briefly here. The University of Cincinnati, where Michael, Chris, and I work, is attempting to globalize itself - to develop its institutional capacity for international activities, to infuse its curriculum with international themes, and to promote and increase global competence among its graduates. Many American universities are doing this, of course. In the process, we are seeing some very interesting experiments in pedagogy, as facultylook for "learning moments" in new and sometimes exotic places. Michael, Chris, and their colleagues have, it seems to me, developed an outstanding model for learning across national and cultural boundaries. In the chapters which follow, you will read the results of their work. What will be less apparent, however, is the process by which that work was produced.

This book applies a sustainable development framework to the planning and managing of an intermediate size city in a developing region of a developing nation, and assesses the potential of such a framework to effectively guide the city's development. It identifies issues and recommends approaches to assist local governments to enhance their capacity, improve their management efficiency, and facilitate a course toward sustainable development. The focus is on the many intermediate size cities emerging in Asia and elsewhere as the nucleus of new urbanization and more efficient urbanization management, instead of on the few primate mega-cities. The entire book studies one city and region from multiple perspectives, allowing multiple comparisons. This reflects the unique composition of the book's contributors, representing fifteen disciplines, four universities, and three countries. The book is intended for those interested in applications of sustainability to the management of urban growth and development at the local level, including development professionals, elected officials, academic researchers and teachers, and university students.



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