

# EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

In November 2013, typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) caused widespread devastation in South-east Asia. Being the second strongest typhoon since the beginning of weather recordings, Haiyan caused several thousand deaths and displaced several million people in the Philippines alone. We wish to express our deepest sympathy with the victims and their families.

As the disaster happened after the editorial deadline there are no related contributions in the current issue. However, three authors address other environmental topics. Introducing a regionally specific land cover map, Patrick Leinenkugel (German Remote Sensing Data Center of the German Aerospace Center [DLR]) and his colleagues advocate transboundary approaches based on consistent and comparable information in the Mekong basin. Jonas Hein (German Development Institute) and Heiko Faust (Department of Geography, Göttingen University) discuss stakeholders, coalition-building and discourses in the context of Indonesia's first private ecosystem restoration concession, the Hutan Harapan project in Jambi. Cosima Werner, a graduate student of Erlangen University, discusses the impacts of a recent Indonesian national government law that postulates that 30% of urban areas shall be occupied by so-called green open spaces.

After much positive feedback on the last issue on environmental politics, coordinated by our colleague Dr Jan Mosedale, we have decided to have special issues on a more regular basis in the future. We hereby invite potentially interested scholars to submit proposals for special issues on relevant topics of their choosing. Please contact us to propose topic areas that require in-depth analysis and discussion. Any special issue can accommodate four to five papers on the topic area. We thank you in advance for your interest and, as always, wish you pleasant read.

Best regards, the editors

## Pacific Geographies

Pacific Geographies (PG), ISSN 2196-1468, is a peer-reviewed semi-annual publication published by the Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) in co-operation with the Department of Human Geography of Hamburg University, Germany. The PG provides an interdisciplinary platform for an academic discussion of social, cultural, environmental, political and economic issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to uphold scientific standards, the PG is implementing a peer-review process. Articles marked as „scientific papers“ have been peer-reviewed by two external reviewers. Articles marked as „research notes“ have been peer-reviewed by one external reviewer and a member of the editorial board. All other articles have been reviewed by the editorial board.

APSA-Members receive the Pacific Geographies at no cost as a membership benefit.



The Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) was founded in 1987 at the Department of Geography of the University of Technology in Aachen. Activities include workshops, conferences, public lectures and poster exhibitions. The book series Pazifik Forum was initiated in 1990. In 1992, it was complemented by the publication of the journal Pacific Geographies. The latter has developed into the major activity of APSA in recent years.

The APSA sees itself as one of the largest scientific networks in Germany for academics and practitioners with an interest in the Asia-Pacific region as well as academic exchange.

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### COVER PICTURE

**Street seller Nuong & customer**  
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The 33 years old Nuong has been working in District 8 of Ho Chi Minh City for 3 years. She is selling diverse goods in the street and sends most of the money she makes to her family back home. She is making around 100,000 Vietnamese Dong a day, in comparison to 40,000 in her home town. For the time being she rents a bed in shared accommodation.

This picture has been published as part of the publication „TP. Hồ Chí Minh: MEGA City Photo Book“ edited by M. Waibel and H. Hilbert in 2014.

