EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Once again, we are convinced that we have been able to gather an interesting kaleidoscope of contributions.

The first article takes a closer look at the Solomon Islands, a country which remains underdeveloped despite decades of development assistance. The author Rob Lamentagge argues that the failure to account for the country’s hybrid governance, in which governance codes of Western liberalism, capitalism, Christianity and Melanesian custom interact, impede the country’s development. He introduces a new concept, ‘governance arbitrage’, to explain how actors could navigate a hybrid governance environment.

Within the second paper, Kristina Großmann and her co-authors discuss the role of networks in Indonesia. Their analysis is based on the case study of a workshop, a result of cooperation between German and Indonesian researchers, which was successfully prepared and implemented in the provincial capital of Central Kalimantan.

Elodie Fache and Annette Beckwoldt introduce the new bi-national research project, SOCPacific, which investigates South Pacific fisheries from an interdisciplinary, multi-level and multi-stakeholder perspective.

We present you with two conference reports. One by Harald Werber & Simon Batterbury who inform us on the 12th European Society for Oceanists Conference, which recently took place at Cambridge University. The other by Carola Klöck, Hellena Debels & Michael Fink give insights on a conference whose topic was the implementation of adaptation strategies in small islands against the backdrop of global climate change.

An essay about Hanoi completes the present issue of Pacific Geographies. George Burchett, an artist born in the Vietnamese capital, and great lover of his city, takes a critical look at the newly erected urban structures. He laments the omission of respect for indigenous culture and that instead embraces the grotesque resemblance to models “favoured by tycoons, megalomaniacs and Las Vegas casino developers”.

We sincerely hope you enjoy your readings of this issue.

The managing editors, Michael Waibel & Matthias Kowasch

Pacific Geographies

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The PG provides an interdisciplinary academic platform to discuss social, cultural, environmental and economic issues and developments 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. Scientific papers and research notes receive a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

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 journal PACIFIC NEWS. APSA-Members receive the PACIFIC GEOGRAPHIES at no cost as a membership benefit.

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.