

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Pacific Geographies #48 has gathered for you fascinating articles about Pacific Ocean governance and its effects on regional geography, a 3-piece series about architecture and urbanization in Cambodia and the review of a new book that looks at urbanization and water management in the Mekong Delta. With her ongoing PhD research about large-scale marine protected areas (LSMPA) in the Pacific Ocean, Marlène Dégremont presents the results of her investigation into the governance processes in the two French overseas territories of New Caledonia and French Polynesia and their effects in profoundly transforming the geography of the region by turning Small Island Developing States (SIDS) into Large Ocean Island States (LOIS).

Our mini-series of 3 articles focuses on urban issues in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In the first piece, German architect Susanne Bodach and co-author Michael Waibel introduce the famous New Khmer Architecture (NKA) movement pioneered by the recently deceased architect H.E Vann Molyvann who ingeniously combined modernist vernacular architecture with traditional elements of Khmer culture. The authors urge that bio-climatic principles applied by NKA should not be neglected but rather re-discovered and implemented as part of the on-going construction boom of Phnom Penh City. The second article discusses various approaches and measures to promote sustainable buildings in Cambodia and concludes that successful policies towards increasing sustainability need to be less technocratic, less top-down, more inclusive thereby taking into account the behavioural dimension of the urban citizens. Our small series is capped off with an essay by Paulette Chheav who reflects on the soul of Phnom Penh City.

And APSA member Helmut Schneider contributes a review of the publication "Living with the Mekong - Climate change and urban development in Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta" by Dutch architect and journalist Joep Janssen.

Have you seen the new look of our website? You can still find all the great content from our journal online at www.pacific-geographies.org. We sincerely hope you like our new interface and that you enjoy this issue of Pacific Geographies.

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.

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COVER PICTURE

Construction Worker, Phnom Penh,
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