Welcome to the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Regional Science*

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Regional Science professionals in the world may be pleased to know the publication of *Asia-Pacific Journal of Regional Science* (APJRS) as a new international journal. The Journal aims to publish the papers on theoretical, empirical and interdisciplinary research on regional science in Asia Pacific region. In this context, the APJRS looks to be unique and contributory to the existing professional, policy and data research on regional science in the region. Further, APJRS is a welcome addition to disseminate and access to the latest knowledge in regional science and development experiences for the benefits of researchers, teachers, students and policy makers in and outside the region. The presence of distinguished and recognized scholars in the team of Managing Editors, Associate Editors, Editorial Board and Advisory Board, and Professor Yoshiro Higano as Editor-in-Chief, adds to the professional strength and diversity of the Journal. All these scholars deserve rich appreciation and congratulations for their initiatives to starting the APJRS to be published by the prestigious Springer.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are known for their vast diversities in history, demography, economy, society and polity. These diversities distinguish their structures by institutions and behavior of agents in the process of their regional growth and development. A focused and specialized journal such as APJRS can be very responsive and encouraging to researchers in the region by publishing their diversified research contributions, especially on comparative studies within Asia-Pacific region, between the region and rest of the world, and national studies with remarkable intra-national development patterns and processes. In particular, regional science researchers in India may find this Journal to be highly useful as a new source of frontier knowledge and publish their high quality research papers.

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Good journals are like typical commodities in economics for which more is always preferred to less due to non-satiation of demand for specialized knowledge. Strengths of a good journal include broadness of criteria to encourage more scholars to publish, maintenance of uncompromising quality and standards, and multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary perspectives to offer newer and policy useful explanations and predictions on regional growth and development processes. I am glad to note that APJRS has hopes on these excellent attributes of a good journal. It has a promising future at the start by its above expected contributions.

It is important to recognize that this initiative of APJRS is an offshoot from the long history of regional (including urban) science development in Japan. This glorious history of regional science in Japan has many globally reputed luminaries including Professors Genpachiro Kono, Yasuhiko Oishi and Hirotada Kohno as founders of Japan Section RSAI; Takao Fukuchi, Yoshio Kimura, Yasuhiro Sakai and Makoto Tawada in Regional Economics; and Noboru Sakashita, Yoshitsugu Kanemoto, Koichi Mera, Masahisa Fujita, and Takahiro Miyao in Regional and Urban Economics. I am sure these historical foundations, salutary contributions and productive experiences of Japanese regional science scholars will be a valuable guide for the enviable growth and impact of APJRS.