



Editorial Note

## Regional development in Central Asia

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Received: 1 December 2023 / Revised: 7 March 2024 / Accepted: 7 March 2024

Central Asia, with its strategic geographical location, rich historical past and economic growth, has consistently attracted the interest of the international academic community. In order to ensure sustainable, inclusive and resilient development of the region, it is first and foremost necessary to explore the issues, opportunities and challenges of regional development in Central Asia, necessary for effective policymaking, international cooperation and improving the well-being of people in the region. There are many emerging issues in this context, such as sustainability and stability, institutions and development, legal frameworks for sustainable development, economic geography, tourism for regional development, regional policy analysis, political economy, spatial economics and planning, environmental and ecological analysis, and transport networks among others. Recognising the need for high-quality research within a specific timeframe required to sustain the progress of human society, this special issue aims to provide a platform consistent with the overarching topic of the journal, fostering discussion and presenting cutting-edge research on the various challenges and opportunities of regional development in Central Asia.

This special issue presents selected papers from the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Regional Development in Central Asia, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in May 2023. The papers are the ones that the peer reviewers considered to be the best papers submitted to the conference and offer insights into the current regional development issues. The first paper “*Regional development of Kazakhstan: Theoretical premises and reality*”, written by Uskelenova A., and Nikiforova N. aims to research and identify an effective theoretical model of regional development of the Republic of Kazakhstan that meets the urgent need for rational use of available resources, which is a prerequisite for future economic development and, consequently, improves quality of life in the regions. The second paper “*Economic efficiency of using internal land management on the basis of agroindustrial enterprises*”, elaborated by Anarbayev Y., Pentaev T., and Rakhimzhanova

G. aims to investigate and compare models of intrafarm land use on the basis of agro-industrial complexes, stressing the need for efficient use of agricultural land, both in the territory of Kazakhstan and in the United States as well as in countries of Asia and the European Union. The third paper entitled “*The model of environmental accounting and auditing as a factor in increasing the efficiency of management decisions at industrial enterprises in the Republic of Kazakhstan*”, written by Korabayev B., Amanova G., Akimova B., Saduakassova K., and Nurgaliyeva A. examines the environmental accounting and auditing model and its impact on the management decisions of business entities engaged in activities that have an impact on the environment. Finally, the fourth article “*Assessment of the migration processes on the example of Kazakhstan*”, developed by Zhumashbekova S., Kirdasinova K., Talapbayeva G., Bekmagambetova G., Nurpeissova A., Orynbekova G., and Aldeshova S. assesses the case of Kazakhstan as one of the host countries in Central Asia in terms of strategic opportunities for migration and its impact on the development of the labour market as an important component of the national economy, contributing to an increase in the country’s well-being. These papers, aimed at addressing key aspects of regional development, have the overall objective of contributing to the discussion on regional development by addressing important areas such as resource utilisation, agricultural efficiency, environmental protection and migration dynamics. The results are intended to assist in policy formulation to promote sustainable regional development in Kazakhstan and, subsequently, in Central Asia.