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greatly enhanced by improvements in the urban infrastructure of the region's core cities.

In the end, this book does not address deep analytical questions such as why some countries or subregions have better (or worse) infrastructure than others. Nor does it explore why some subregions are able to cooperate and others less so. These would be valuable issues to explore in ADB and ADBI's future publications, especially considering the editors' particular interest in the institutional aspects of regional infrastructure.

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***Competitiveness Analysis and Development Strategies for 33 Indonesian Provinces.* By Tan Khee Giap, Mulya Amri, Linda Low, and Tan Kong Yam.** Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Company, 2013. Pp. 803.

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This rare book weighs provincial competitiveness in Indonesia and makes a very important contribution to studies on economic decentralization. It is a resource for governments and policy-makers seeking to accelerate economic growth and poverty alleviation. The book achieves its aims by analysing various data sets and generating simulations based on a wide range of development indicators including macroeconomic stability, institutional strength, business and finance opportunities, and quality of life.

As the book contains abundant information on provincial competitiveness, this review is organized according to two broad and distinct, but related, methods employed in the book. I focus first on the current rankings of the provinces and later on the competitiveness simulation rankings.

The overall competitiveness ranking corroborates observations made in the broader literature on regional economic development, which posit that richer and more advanced regions tend to have greater competitive advantages. Jakarta tops

every ranking and the other provinces (located outside Java Island) that rank high on the overall competitiveness scale are those that are already well-known for their respective economic strengths, such as East Kalimantan (natural resources), Riau (manufacturing and foreign direct investment) and Bali (tourism).

However, the study also makes some unexpected discoveries. For instance, at number 23, Maluku ranks relatively high on the macroeconomic stability index while Aceh ranks last (33rd). Yet *both* provinces have been affected by social and political conflict. Moreover, two popular tourist destinations, Bali and Yogyakarta, oddly enough, rank lower than less developed provinces such as Papua, Lampung, and Maluku on the "Financial, Business and Manpower Conditions" index. Another interesting find is that West Java, home to manufacturing industries, is not highly competitive in the infrastructure development category. The province is ranked twelfth; lower than non-manufacturing provinces such as North Sulawesi and South Kalimantan.

The attempt at undertaking a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) analysis of each province is interesting. It is, however, static and should be studied carefully. For example, although East Kalimantan appears to have a greater "opportunity" value over Riau, the analysis does not draw attention to the fact that the former's economic growth is predominantly driven by a uniform, natural resource industry. On the other hand, Riau receives a wide range of foreign direct investment and has a higher level of trade openness. As such it is important to consider that each of these provinces have *different* types of "opportunity" values.

The "*what-if* competitive simulation" forecasts that many provinces will climb ranks; only two provinces, East Nusa Tenggara and North Maluku will maintain unfavourable positions even after improvements in the categories in which they rank low. Yet, industry and trade development will depend on international cooperation and on the policies adopted by the central government rather than on the respective development plans of provincial governments.

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The book's financial forecast also predicts insignificant changes in future rankings. However, a report by the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) on business activities in Indonesia significantly diverges from the book's findings. For instance, while the book suggests that Jakarta is the most competitive province, the IFC report lists the capital at eighth place. Moreover, while Yogyakarta is at number 18 in the book's current rankings; the IFC report deems the province as the easiest to start a business in. Even the book's simulation on improvements in finance and business policies suggests that the province will climb up to at most the ninth position—this is still far below the IFC rank. It also interesting that the capital city of East Kalimantan, Samarinda, is not among the top twenty cities for businesses in the IFC report and, yet, it ranks second in the book.

The book's strength lies in its provision and analysis of vast quantitative information. Data at the sub-national level, let alone data on competitiveness, is hard to come by in the case of developing countries. Secondly, the simulated SWOT analysis provides a "future lens" for policy-makers. Finally, the book employs simple standardized scores to consolidate the various data types into the respective figures on provincial competitiveness.

However, it lacks technical arguments explaining the assumptions it chooses to make. For instance, the governmental and institutional variables used in this study are not sufficient proxies for policies, leadership and bureaucracy operating at the provincial level. Furthermore, some provinces are not likely to improve their weakest indicators if they continue to suffer from underdevelopment. For example, it would be difficult for East Nusa Tenggara to improve its financial, business and manpower conditions if its quality of life and infrastructure development indicators remain stymied. The *what-if* simulation further neglects the fact that politicians and bureaucrats at the *district* level have the authority to set development agendas. As such, provincial governments have limited authority to generate policies and incentives to boost development.

Overall, the book is an excellent introduction to the current and future competitiveness of Indonesia's provinces. However, scholars and policy-makers should remain cognizant of the fact that decentralization has taken place at the district level, which this book does not exactly capture. The reader should approach the rankings with an appropriate knowledge of Indonesia's political and economic history.

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***Malaysia and the Developing World: The Asian Tiger on the Cinnamon Road.* By Jan Stark.** London and New York: Routledge, 2013. Pp. 174.

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Jan Stark's *Malaysia and the Developing World: The Asian Tiger on the Cinnamon Road* is intriguing for presenting readers with the multifaceted aspects of trade and development networks incorporating Islam. The author suggests that these constitute alternative modernities. Stark's generally unflattering depiction of these networks focuses on states' and other actors' contemporary transformations of age-old Islamic networks anchored in religion, trade and politics that spanned the Malay World, Central Asia, East Africa and the Middle East from pre- to post-colonial times. His analytical focus falls on the intersections between Islamic values as interpreted by actors, ethnic norms and other translocal identities in shaping agents' economic behaviour. Stark argues that the contemporary networks reflect alternative modernities because they embody non-Western governance styles and cultural underpinnings. This book is situated within the wider debate on the relationship between cultural values and economic behaviour. It is an important contribution to current debates on Islam's relationship with modernity at a time when Asia, which is home to substantial Muslim