

# URBAN GEOGRAPHY OF POST-GROWTH SOCIETY



**Masateru HINO and Jun TSUTSUMI eds.**

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I have no doubt this volume will introduce the concept of "post-growth society" to a generation of Urban Geographers. The wide ranging but concise introduction by Michael Pacione sets the context for what follows perfectly. The book brings together a series of chapters, based on original research papers, many of which were presented at the IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto 2013 and which collectively far outweigh their individual contributions to the topic. The editors are to be commended for assembling a group of such prominent Japanese Urban Geographers. It is both noteworthy and correct that urban geographers from Japan introduce this topic to the world given the advanced state of some of the processes outlined in their own country. The book explores the related concepts of depopulation and shrinking cities under the banner of "post-growth" society through a series of specific examples of urban change in Japanese cities. The authors are very clear that we should not confuse these concepts with decline. Each chapter focuses on a different aspect of "post-growth" that highlights changing societal structures that are impacting on population, economic activity, the built environment, land prices, urban morphology, family life, and the image of urbanism in Japan today. What emerges is a clarity of thought that suggests we may be entering a new paradigm of urban transformation where managing change in an innovative and sustainable manner becomes the goal of all those involved in planning and addressing the problems of cities in the future.

Dr Daniel O'Donoghue  
Principal Lecturer in Geography,  
Canterbury Christchurch University  
Vice Chair, IGU Urban Commission

#### Editors

**Professor Dr Masateru HINO** is a professor of Environmental Geography at Tohoku University, Japan. He has engaged in the research of the development of Japanese urban systems. Recently, he proposed the necessity of building up individual-city (actor) centred networks for the sustainable vitalisation of cities.

**Dr Jun TSUTSUMI** is an Associate Professor of Regional Geography at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. The principal focus of his research is on analysing the processes and patterns of land-use change in urban areas. In 2010 he was awarded by Japan Association on Geographical Space in recognition of his contribution to geographical knowledge through the publication of his latest book: *The Mechanism of Land-use Change* (2009).



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Dr M. Hino (left) and Dr J. Tsutsumi (right) at Kyoto International Conference Centre in August 2013.

Photo courtesy: Dr Daniel O'Donoghue