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IN THIS ISSUE...

In our last issue of *Regions*, a topic relevant to Sub-Saharan Africa was discussed, namely, rural development in Nigeria and efforts to address issues related to patterns of poverty in that country. In this issue, a different dimension of the theme is considered by our In Depth authors, Apostolos Papadopoulos and Loukia-Maria Fratsea (Harokopio University of Athens, Greece). They examine Sub-Saharan African migration to Greece and the effects of the economic crisis on this process.

Nicola Bellini (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy) in the Comment and Debate section, poses the challenge to policy-makers and researchers in the West as to what can be learnt from, about and **with** China. His discussion provides us with a good introduction to our Regional Survey which looks in some detail at what is going on at the regional level in China. More broadly, the Regional Survey explores the topic of regional inequality coincident with development in the newly industrialised countries of China, India and Brazil. Having experienced rapid growth over the last two or three decades, these three countries had a total GDP in 2012 of \$12.62 trillion (World Economic Outlook, IMF, October 2012 data). However, development within each country has been unequally distributed across regions. Gordon Dabinett and Alasdair Rae (University of Sheffield, UK) argue that the objectives of reducing regional disparities, promoting intra-regional convergence and increasing competitiveness are given the same import in China as in the EU but that what differs is the spatial scale at which regional policies are framed. Michael Dunford (University of Sussex, Brighton, UK) and Thomas Bonschab (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Beijing, China), argue that China's regional disparities are not only a

consequence of geographical factors but also reflect China's choice of development strategy which has produced marked differences between rural and urban areas. Balaji Parthasarathy and Anjali Karol Mohan (International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore, India) discuss the different approaches to and effects of regional policies in India since its independence in 1947 while Marco Crocco, Fabiana Santos and Mara Teixeira (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil) examine regional growth in the absence of regional policy in Brazil.

Our Research Note is by Chungshing Chan and Lawal Marafa (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) based on Chan's PhD research on greening the image of Hong Kong. In the Association News section, there are reports from three of the RSA Research Networks as well as reports on the RSA Early Career and RSA Winter Conferences in 2012.

Finally, we would like to thank David Bailey who during his time as Chair of the Association generated considerable enthusiasm for the role of *Regions* within the RSA as well as providing specific ideas for articles. His support has been invaluable. We also look forward to working with Andrew Beer as the new Chair of the Association who has already contributed to *Regions* as one of our Guest Editors (to find out more, see *Regions* No. 283 2011 'A New Dawn? Regions and Regionalism in Australia').

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