

A Short Biography of WICAKSONO SAROSA



Born in Bandung, Indonesia, on October 11, 1959, Wicaksono Sarosa is currently the Executive Director of the Urban and Regional Development Institute (URDI), a Jakarta-based not-for-profit organization intended to promote sustainable urban and regional development in Indonesia through three main areas of activities: (i) research, (ii) training and (iii) communication.

He is also a lecturer at the Trisakti University and a principal at Ronakota Selaras, a design and planning consulting firm. His main area of interest is planning and management for sustainable urban development, especially at the local and community level.

Wicak earned his doctorate degree in urban and regional planning from the University of California at Berkeley (2001) with a dissertation titled: *“Infrastructure-based Community Development: Theories and Practices of Sustainable Development at the Local Level with a Participant-Observation of Three Pilot-Projects in Rural Villages of Java, Indonesia”*. His master degree also came from the same university (1993) with a thesis titled: *“The Dual Formal-Informal Growth of Jakarta: A Study of the Morphological Impacts of Economic Growth in Metropolis of the Developing World”*. His bachelor degree in Architecture was earned in 1984 at the Bandung Institute of Technology. From 1990-1992, Wicak received a Fulbright scholarship, which enabled him to study in the United States of America. One of his published writings is a working paper, titled *“A Framework for the Analysis of Urban Sustainability: Linking Theory and Practice”* (Urban and Regional Development Paper Series 2002/2).

As indicated in some of his writing, Wicak always tries to combine his theoretical knowledge and his practical experiences. He has been involved in several major urban planning and development projects since 1984. For example, he was involved in various planning and design processes of Bumi Serpong Damai newtown throughout the second-half of 1980s and, later on, in the late 1990s. He also contributed to some planning and design processes of other newtown or housing development projects in Indonesia. Wicak has also worked in participatory projects at the community level such as *kampung* improvement programs and other community development endeavors. In recent years – especially after the implementation of decentralization in Indonesia – Wicak has been very active as a training instructor in various local capacity building exercises.

Wicak lives in Jakarta with his wife and two children. When time allows, Wicak likes to do paintings (or sketching), easy readings and traveling with the family. He also enjoys walking around neighborhoods in Jakarta or anywhere.