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Smart Regions - Opportunities for Sustainable Development in the Digital Era

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Special Session (SS51) on: Sustainable Regional Development in China

Organizers:

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The aim and scope:

Over the past decades, China's economy has expanded at a staggering pace by means of various reform and economic liberalization. Alongside the trade liberalization and economic development, China's social transition has also created some new challenges, including regional economic disparity and environmental degradation. How to reconcile the potential conflicts ensuring the sustainability of economic development becomes the important agenda for the coming years. Meanwhile, it is worth noting that some emerging modules are playing import role in accelerating economic growth as new engines, such as prevalence of mobile internet, accessibility of high-speed railway, and overwhelming penetration of E-commerce. As these new-style driving forces facilitate the growth, China's regional development is facing with new challenges and contradictions.

In this context, the objective of this special session is to discuss and explore the drivers and new challenges of regional development in China around the following sub-themes:

- High-speed railway and its impacts on regional developments
- Sustainable growth and environmental regulation
- Labor migration and sustainable urbanization
- Heterogeneity in estimating agglomeration economies
- Big data and regional governance
- Mobile internet and spatial economy

The selected papers with peer review process will be published in special issue of the journal *Regional Science Policy and Practice*.

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