

# Preface

This book examines the urban growth trends and patterns of various metropolitan regions in Asia and Africa from a geographical perspective. State-of-the-art geospatial tools and techniques from the geographic information systems (GIS) and science, remote sensing, and machine learning disciplines were used for the land change analysis. In addition to the empirical results, the methodological approaches employed and discussed in this book showcase the potential of geospatial analysis (e.g., land change modeling) for improving our understanding of the trends and patterns of urban growth in Asia and Africa. Furthermore, given the complexity of the urban growth process across the world, issues raised in this book will contribute to the improvement of future geospatial analysis of urban growth in the developing regions. This book is written for researchers, academics, practitioners, and graduate students. The inclusion of the origin and brief history of each of the selected metropolitan regions, including the analysis of their urban primacy, spatiotemporal patterns of urban land use/cover changes, driving forces of urban development, and implications for future sustainable development, makes the book an important reference for various related studies.

Most of the contributors to this book are affiliated with the Division of Spatial Information Science, University of Tsukuba, Japan. The division, which was established in 2000 to include geographical information science within the doctoral program in geoenvironmental sciences, provides an enabling research environment where faculty members, staff, and students work together to advance knowledge in GIS and remote sensing techniques in different areas of interest.

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