

The Urban-Ocean Nexus: Towards Developing Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Blue Economy in Indonesia and the Netherlands

Conceptualizing urban and blue frontier interactions and the health consequences

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Project description

The blue economy is increasingly vital for maritime countries such as Indonesia and the Netherlands. Proponents emphasize the benefits of a diversified blue economy for achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Critics contend that the blue economy leads to new territorial and resource conflicts and displacements of coastal communities and ecosystems. Both arguments fail to recognize that maritime countries such as Indonesia and the Netherlands have been urbanizing, with blue economy development and urbanization processes intricately linked especially through infrastructure development, co-shaping urban and blue frontiers in the coastal and offshore spaces.

This project conceptualizes a novel, 'urban-ocean nexus' to assess the impacts of the urban and blue frontier development and to align marine spatial planning and urban planning in coastal and offshore areas. Specifically, the project applies the urban-ocean nexus to the Makassar Strait in Indonesia and the North Sea off the Netherlands' coast. One of the impacts that we aim to clarify in this project is environmental health and health of various groups of people in the process of urban-blue frontier interactions.

As a bright minds assistant within this project, you will: 1) review literature, policy documents and media discourses and visualizations on blue economy and environmental and human health in coastal communities, especially in Indonesia and the Netherlands; 2) develop a conceptual framework to link sustainable urbanization, blue economy development and health. You will also help with organizing learning events with other researchers, civil society, government officials and private sector and developing a project communication strategy. The project has a broad range of consortium partners both in the Netherlands and Indonesia, mostly continuing from the related 'Following Frontiers of the Forest City' research project (<https://forestcity.sites.uu.nl/>), and you will have an ample opportunity to get to know and learn from the international and transdisciplinary team members.

Job requirements

- Good command of English
- Good writer who can write a literature review
- Pragmatic communicator who is keen to organize learning events and develop communication tools including social media and website in close consultation with other project researchers
- Interest in or affinity with the broad field of International Development Studies is a prerequisite; and you engage with the field of urban and marine spatial development planning with translocal/transnational perspectives.