

Sebastian Eckardt

Accountability and Decentralized Service Delivery

Explaining Performance Variation across Local Governments in Indonesia



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Does decentralization improve open public service delivery? Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, this dissertation examines varying outcomes of decentralization plan in Indonesia. If regional political procedures are distorted, political and bureaucratic brokers face incentives to utilize the better fiscal and political independence that comes with decentralization to pull private 'rents' and, consequently, these agents often fail to deliver basic solutions. It shows - both theoretically and empirically - that the performance of newly empowered regional governments can be deeply rooted in regional politics. This involves the interaction of regional political organizations, the electoral regime, and a up to date and a politically energetic community in a position to broadly participate straight and indirectly in exacting accountability. Conversely, higher accountability escalates the political costs of inefficient and inadequate open public decisions, and public assistance performance is likely to improve. Economists, political scientists, and practitioners of decentralization and public sector reform in emerging markets will take great curiosity in this book.



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