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Yohanes Nurcahyo Agung Wibowo

(When there is more than one author, only one signature will suffice)
October 4, 2018

Dear Dr. M. Nur Rianto Al Arif

I wish to submit a new manuscript entitled "Agglomeration and Urban Labor Manufacture Productivity in Indonesia" for consideration by Jurnal Signifikhan.

In this paper, I report on the influence of agglomeration on manufacture labor productivity in metropolitan areas of Indonesia during 2009 until 2014. This is significant because agglomeration has been argued to improve productivity since it could provide positive externalities in terms of labor pooling, knowledge spillover, and input sharing. Therefore, I am interested to observe the effect of large and medium manufacturing industries agglomeration on manufacture productivity in the context of Indonesia especially across the metropolitan areas (44 kabupaten/kota) where mostly large and medium manufacturing industries are located. Employing output density model from Ciccone (2002) and Ke (2010) to measure agglomeration effect, the result shows that agglomeration is a double edge-sword. In terms of manufacture output, it positively contributes to labor productivity. On the other hand, in terms of labor density, it negatively contributes to labor productivity, emphasizing that labor density has exceeded its saturation point in the metropolitan areas. The findings also suggest that government should expand industrial cluster development in the less densely populated areas especially outside Java Island—which is in line with the government program to develop newly industrial parks outside Java—by providing basic infrastructure so that this creates supportive conditions for investment and industrial development in such areas.

I think that this manuscript fits well to the scope of Jurnal Signifikhan and should be of interest to readers in the areas of urban and/or regional economics.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at yohanes.nanw@gmail.com. I confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

I hope that the manuscript is considered to be published in Jurnal Signifikhan and I am looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Yohanes Nurcahyo Agung Wibowo