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Dr. Norihisa Shima is an Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning in the Department of Regional Development Studies at Toyo University, Japan. His research interests include urban planning systems—particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America—slum upgrading and housing policy, and international cooperation in urban development.

He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Urban Engineering at the University of Tokyo, with a dissertation on decentralized regional development planning in Indonesia, which was awarded the Excellent Paper Award by the City Planning Institute of Japan. As a professional researcher at Toyo University (2014–present), the University of Tokyo (2003–2014), and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS, 2010–2013), he has conducted extensive field research in over 50 cities across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, in collaboration with central and local governments, universities, and NGOs.

Dr. Shima advises on urban development policies and projects for international organizations such as the World Bank, UN-Habitat, Asian Development Bank, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Recent projects he has participated in include the development of Indonesia's new capital city and the preparation of a master plan for Lusaka, Zambia—both supported by JICA. He is actively involved in formulating JICA's urban development strategies for Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. He also served as a technical advisor to the Cabinet Office of Japan on the Comprehensive Strategy for Infrastructure System Export. He has been invited to present Japan's urban development experience at major events such as the 20th Anniversary of the Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC) and the World Bank Land Conference 2025.

In addition to his research and advisory work, Dr. Shima is committed to building international academic networks. He chairs Global Urban Platform of City Planning Institute of Japan and serves as Assistant Secretary General of the Asian Planning Schools Association (APSA).