



Massachusetts  
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Hochschule für Angewandte  
Wissenschaften Hamburg  
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## 3rd WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITIES (WSSD-U-2016)

### Designing Tomorrow's Campus: Resiliency, Vulnerability and Adaptation



### Following-up the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT),  
Cambridge, MA, USA  
14-16 September 2016

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

# WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITIES (WSSD-U-2016)



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## /// BACKGROUND

The **2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development** (UNCSD), also known as “Rio+20”, was an historical event. Held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, this landmark gathering agreed on various sets of actions to make the world a better and more sustainable place to live in. In particular, the document “The Future We Want”, outlined many of the measures countries across the world should pursue and implement, in order to translate the principles of sustainable development into practice.

As a parallel event to UNCSD, the **1<sup>st</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2012)** was held in Rio de Janeiro on 5-6 June 2012. It was then followed up by the **2<sup>nd</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2014)**, which was held in Manchester, UK. The event led to three ground-breaking publications on the theory and practice of sustainable development, and showed the need for a continuation of the dialogue among sustainability academics and practitioners, so as to address the issues, matters and problems at hand.

It is against this background that the **“3<sup>rd</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2016)** will be organised by the Office of Sustainability of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Manchester Metropolitan University (UK) and the Research and Transfer Centre “Applications of Life Sciences” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), in cooperation with the United National University initiative “Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development” (RCE).

The **“3<sup>rd</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2016)** will focus on: “Designing Tomorrow’s Campus: Resiliency, Vulnerability, and Adaptation”, and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field.

## /// AIMS

Consistent with the goals of the WSSD-U series, the aims of the **“3<sup>rd</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2016)** are as follows:

- i. to provide universities all round the world with an opportunity to display and present their works (i.e. curriculum innovation, research, activities, practical projects) as they relate to education for sustainable development at university level;
- ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of projects, from successful initiatives and good practice;
- iii. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to integrate the topic of sustainable development in the curriculum of universities;
- iv. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation.
- v. to enable scalability of existing and future models of campus sustainability

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today. To this purpose, a set of will be published, with all accepted papers. These will be part of the **award-winning** “World Sustainability Series”, published by Springer, one of the world’s top five scientific publishers.



## /// PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the “3<sup>rd</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2016) will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. They are:

- i. faculty
- ii. members of university administrations;
- iii. research staff;
- iv. campus sustainability officers/directors
- v. campus facilities and operations staff;
- vi. project officers and consultants;
- vii. student leaders;
- viii. other people interested in the field.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for integrated approaches towards sustainable development and, hence contribute to the further dissemination of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

## /// STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The “3<sup>rd</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2016) will be organised in two main strands:

### **Strand 1: the displays**

Participating universities and organisations will be able to put-up displays describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The displays will be the backbone of the event and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

### **Strand 2: the presentations**

A set of presentations, divided into five sections will be organised, dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of the art of education for sustainability today. These are:

**Session 1:** Innovations in Curriculum and Research

**Session 2:** Collaborative Community Partnerships and Engagement

**Session 3:** Sustainable Systems: Design, Build, Operate

**Session 4:** Comprehensive approaches to Sustainable Development: The integration of Curriculum, Research and Operations

**Session 5:** Student Participation and Engagement in Sustainability Issues

A tour of the state-of-the-art facilities at the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** will be offered, with excellent examples of how to implement campus greening initiatives.

## /// TIME-TABLE

The “3<sup>rd</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2016) will be held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The schedule is as follows:

### **Wednesday 14th September 2016: arrival and set-up of displays (16:00-18:00)**

THURSDAY, 15 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016	FRIDAY, 16 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016
<b>All day:</b> Exhibition and visit to displays <b>Morning:</b> Session 1 <b>Afternoon:</b> Session 2 <b>Evening:</b> Reception I	<b>All day:</b> Exhibition and visit to displays <b>Morning:</b> Session 3 <b>Afternoon:</b> Building a Next Generation model of sustainability at MIT : Presentation and Tour Round-table with key experts & conclusions



In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in Manchester in the course of Wednesday the 14th September 2016 at the latest, and travel back on or after the 17th September 2016.

## /// DEADLINES

**Deadline for submission of abstracts:** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**Deadline for submission of papers:** 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Deadline for full, revised papers:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Deadline for registrations:** 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Since the conference book will be launched at or soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

## /// THE VENUE

The event will be held on the Campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), situated in Cambridge, MA, USA. The closest airport is Boston.

Blocks of rooms will be reserved at four local hotels: Cambridge Marriot, Courtyard Marriot, Kendall Hotel and the Hyatt Regency Cambridge. Additional options can be found online.

## /// FEES AND CHARGES

A conference fee of €300 /US\$ 350 (inclusive of VAT) will be charged to registered delegates, so as to offset the preparation costs. The fees includes **free lunches and coffee breaks on 15th-16<sup>th</sup> September 2016**.

Organisations or individuals not able to pay this fee should contact the Secretariat so that it may be waived in special cases. Interested people and organisations are encouraged to register by completing the application form provided. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs** of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.

## /// REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Regrettably, registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to register as soon as possible**. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time for presentations or space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairpersons, following consultation with the organising committee. Participants registering to the event will do so under the condition that they will cover their own travel, accommodation and incidental costs (e.g. visa fees) related to their trip to the United States. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind**. Letters of invitation to enter the United States can be only be sent to *bona fide*, registered delegates, who have paid their fees and need a document to show their employers.

## /// ORGANISERS

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Office of Sustainability
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Research and Transfer Centre "Applications of Life Sciences", RCE Hamburg and Region





## /// INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
 Baltic University Programme  
 UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)  
 UN Environment Programme (UNEP)  
 Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS)  
 Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC)

## /// SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### Chairpersons

- Prof. Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DL, DLitt), Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, HAW Hamburg and RCE Hamburg and Region, Germany
- Dr Julie Newman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Office of Sustainability

### Members

Dr. Abul Quasem Al-Amin, University of Malaya, Malaysia  
 Maria de Fátima Pereira Alves, Open University, Portugal  
 Dr. Nelson Amaro, Galileo University, Guatemala  
 Prof. Ulisses Azeiteiro, University of Coimbra, Portugal  
 Dr. Didac Ferrer Balas, Polytechnic of Catalunya, Spain  
 Prof. Sandra Caeiro, Universidade Aberta, Portugal  
 Prof. Adriano Ciani, University of Perugia, Italy  
 Prof. Bernd Delakowitz, University of Applied Sciences Zittau-Görlitz, Germany  
 Leanne Denby, President, Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS)  
 Dr. Rachel Dunk, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK  
 Dr. Alexander Feher, University of Nitra, Slovakia  
 Prof. Baltasar D'Andrade Guerra, UNISUL, Brazil  
 Dr. John Hindley, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK  
 Professor Sadiq Hussain, Ibri College of Applied Sciences, Sultanate of Oman  
 Prof. Dzintre Ilisco, Daugavpils University, Latvia  
 Prof. Ralf Isenmann, Munich University of Applied Sciences, Germany  
 Prof. Charbel Jabbour, University of São Paulo, Brazil  
 Mr. Simon Kemp, University of Southampton, UK  
 Prof. Maris Klavins, University of Latvia, Latvia  
 Prof. Linas Kliucininkas, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania  
 Dr. Paula Lindroos, Baltic University Programme, Sweden  
 Prof. Violeta Orlovic Lovren, University of Belgrade, Serbia  
 Dr. Evangelos Manolas, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece  
 Dr. Karel Mulder, TU Delft, Netherlands  
 Prof. Maria Novo, National University on Distance Education, Spain  
 Prof. Paul Pace, University of Malta, Malta  
 Dr. Iain Patton, Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges, UK  
 Prof. Joost Platje, University of Opole, Poland  
 Prof. Anita Pipere, Daugavpils University, Latvia  
 Prof. Diana-Mihaela Pociovalisteanu, Constantin Brancusi University, Romania  
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 Prof. Lars Ryden, Baltic University Programme, Sweden  
 Prof. Mikhail Shilin, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, St. Petersburg, Russia  
 Ms. Helena Tinker, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK  
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 Prof. Phil Wheeler, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK  
 Prof. Sergei Zenchenko, Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics, Minsk Branch, Belarus  
 Dr. Michaela Zint, University of Michigan, USA



### **/// SCIENTIFIC AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT MIT**

**To be announced**

### **/// CONTACT POINTS FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATION**

**All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:**

Professor Walter Leal, MMU (UK) & HAW (Germany)  
Contact e-mail: [info@iccip.net](mailto:info@iccip.net)  
Dr Julie Newman, MIT, USA  
Contact e-mail: [j\\_newman@mit.edu](mailto:j_newman@mit.edu)

### **/// CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

**All questions related to abstracts and registrations should be sent to:**

Dr. Mihaela Sima  
Institute of Geography  
Romanian Academy  
E-mail: [simamik@yahoo.com](mailto:simamik@yahoo.com)

### **/// HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT**

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see page 8 for a sample abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.





## **SAMPLE ABSTRACT**

### **Some developments on education for sustainable development in higher education institutions**

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#### **Abstract**

The implementation of sustainable development in higher education is a global trend. Yet, the intensity and the depth with which higher education institutions are taking on the challenge of sustainability, significantly differs.

This paper presents a global analysis about how higher education institutions are including sustainability issues in the different areas (e.g. teaching, research, outreach and institutional management) and describes the progress made in this field during the last 10 years. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers which prevent developments in respect of the integration of sustainability issues in higher education. Finally, some concrete steps which may be undertaken in order to allow universities to integrate sustainable development in their activities but also in regional development, are outlined. This paper will be useful to anyone interested in the different levels of emphasis given to sustainable development at higher education institutions across the world.