
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Dr. Delyse Springett runs the Programme for Business and Sustainable Development at Massey University, New Zealand, and is also the Director of Business and Sustainable Development Training and Consultancy. She brings a critical theorisation to her work with companies and to her teaching. She is a Guest Lecturer in Business and Sustainable Development in the MSc programme of the Kadoorie Institute at the University of Hong Kong, a member of the Advisory Board of the Green Economics Institute and an Editorial Board member of the *Sustainable Development Journal*.

The focus of the *International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development Journal* is broad, intended to foster discussion not only on technological innovation but on new ways of thinking about the complex and contested issues of sustainable development. Innovative thinking and practices in areas of economics, policy making, legislation, health, education and the institutional barriers to sustainable development also form the basis of the discourse to be fostered. After publishing several issues based on particular themes – moral responsibility and sustainable development; education for sustainability; the European SCORE programme on sustainable consumption and the MATISSE project on integrated sustainability assessment – this general issue provides papers on a wide range of relevant topics, some of them pushing the parameters of the discourse into new areas.

Hudson points out that the previously unimagined scale of human-induced pollution of the environment and the irreversible changes that emanate from this in part reflect neo-liberal strategies for urban and regional development that maximise global movement of people and things. He raises questions about our attitudes to regional and urban development and the need for transitions to more resilient and sustainable cities and regions as part of the transition to a more resilient and sustainable planet. He highlights the reliance of the affluent 'North' on global movements of commodities and people to sustain their lifestyles; and the assumption that the wastes produced via production, movement and consumption can continue simply to be dumped in the global commons or exported to the 'South'. The looming global crisis raises important issues for both the theory and practice of regional and urban development.

Vale and Vale comment that much of the literature on sustainability has focused on behaviour change, but that, to effect this, meaningful measurements are required. For example, carbon counting, which simplifies a complex process, might be more effective in influencing individual behaviour if a measurement system were advanced based on land areas required for *specific* activities. The authors provide an example of how that might work in relation to choices made about leisure activities.

At the basis of improved understanding of the issues and principles of sustainable development is the need for education. Dobers *et al.* argue that universities have a crucial role in producing new knowledge and innovation in the discourse of sustainability and that institutional entrepreneurship is called for, as in the case that they present in a Swedish academic milieu.

For some time now, a strong literature has been emerging that considers the implications of sustainability and sustainable development for industry and business, and several of the papers in this issue contribute to that literature. Hagen examines the ways in which corporate sagas are developed, concluding from the case study provided that it is easier for concepts of industrial ecology to promote incremental change in an organisation than to bring about radical innovation with the implications for discontinuity and change to business-as-usual.

Several of the papers in this issue focus on partnerships and networks between different stakeholders. Turcotte *et al.* case study a multi-stakeholder partnership between a metallurgy company and an environmental NGO wherein an attempt was made to reconcile the firm's economic objectives with the interests of the citizens on whom their business impacted. This was driven by ideal speech situation theory with a focus on learning and innovation. The article concludes with a critical overview of the outcomes of the case in terms of learning, innovation and change and practical recommendations are formulated for convenors of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Devisscher and Mont discuss the concept of Product-Service Systems (PSS) as solutions to the problems of increasing levels of production and consumption, examining the thesis that sustainability can be reached if all elements of the system are optimised from economic, environmental and social perspectives. They investigate the PSS concept through a case analysis of coffee production in Bolivia, where a shift to shared ownership of equipment proved not only to have economic, but also environmental and social implications and led to improved quality of life in the community.

Ornetzeder and Suschek-Berger discuss issues of sustainable refurbishment in Austria. Few models were discovered that combined efficient information and mobilisation of users with a comprehensive technical and ecological offer. Two such examples are discussed that have operated for several years at the local level to promote sustainable refurbishment. These are characterised by network structures constituted by heterogeneous local social players, managed by centrally coordinated units that try to fulfil several functions: public relations, training seminars, strategic development, advisory services and the implementation of refurbishment measures. A critical evaluation is provided of the network activities described and it is revealed that both examples face major challenges, both internally and externally.

Hörte and Halila set out to identify the factors explaining why eco-innovations fail to find a stronger market. Their study is based on three Swedish innovation contests and covers nearly three hundred eco-innovations. The analysis revealed four groups of factors affecting the degree of market success: the innovator; the innovation; the development process and certain aspects of the surroundings.

A relatively new area for consideration is that of space technology and sustainable development. Olla discusses some important Information, Communication and Space Technology (ICST) applications along with the space infrastructure upgrades underway to support these. The article examines how ICSTs can contribute to sustainable development using a conceptual framework that can guide policy and implementation of ICTs into society.

Finally, Maila provides a position paper on the role of ethics in governance and development. Accountability and equity, as governing functions, call for participation from civil society and a people-centred governance and development agenda.

As always, our thanks go to the authors who submitted papers to be considered for the issue, the reviewers who assisted us with selection of the papers and the people who reviewed books for this issue. Feedback is welcome and should be addressed to the lead authors in each case, or to the Editor.