
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Md Maruf Mortula is currently an Associate Professor of Civil Engineering (Environment) at the American University of Sharjah (AUS). He has over ten years of research and academic experience in Canada and the UAE. Prior to AUS, he worked at National Research Council of Canada, and University of Regina, Canada.

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It gives me great pleasure to present to you this special issue on sustainable practices in the built environment of the *International Journal of Sustainable Society*. The papers before you were presented in a shortened format at the Second International Conference on Sustainable Systems and the Environment (ISSE'14), in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 12–13 February 2014.

Sustainability is an area integrating environmental aspects with many other important activities within the society. The importance of sustainability is reflected in many development activities within the society; from water and environmental aspects to construction and transportation activities. The challenge of integrating different constraints within a society in today's world bring is of huge importance. Developing a platform for integrating different environmental, economic and social challenges is the demand of the time.

The papers presented in the special issue bring a collection of some of the challenges mentioned before. The papers discuss a wide-ranging sustainability issues. The papers discussed sustainability issues in the area of water and environmental engineering, transportation engineering and construction materials and management. Authors from all of these different backgrounds from many different countries contributed to this issue.

The special issue would not have been possible without the sincere cooperation and support of all the authors and the reviewers. The editorial staffs at Inderscience were very gracious and helpful in managing the review process and responding to inquiries from both authors and reviewers: Thank you all for making this issue a reality.