
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Leonid Melnyk is a Doctor of Economics, Head of the Department of Economics, Entrepreneurship and Business Administration at Sumy State University, Ukraine. He is the author and co-author of more than 400 scientific and other publications, and 45 books. He is a Leader of 100 research and educational projects at the international, national and local levels, including 30 international projects. His research interests focus on development economics, the third industrial revolution and Industry 4.0, EU studies on social, economic and business; ecological economics, economics of systems development, economics of enterprise, information economics, and economics of sustainability.

Emmanuel Kwesi Boon is the Founder of the International Centre for Enterprise and Sustainable Development (ICED) located in Accra in Ghana. He was awarded with a PhD in Economic Sciences by Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Brussels, Belgium in 1986. He has lectured at the University of Ghana Business School from September 1987 until July 2007 and VUB from 1993 to 2017. He is crowned as the Development Chief of the Lambussie Traditional Area in the Upper West Region and the Development Linguist for Wli Community in the Hohoe Municipality in the Volta Region of Ghana.

Yuri Evdokimov is a Professor from the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton, Canada). He holds a joint appointment in the Departments of Economics and Civil Engineering. His research interests lie in the field of economic evaluation of climate change impacts, sustainable transportation, sustainable energy and emerging market economies. His work has been published in academic journals and conference proceedings in the USA, the UK, Canada, France, Greece, Germany, India, China, Croatia and former USSR, particularly in Russia and Ukraine. To date, he has more than 30 publications; one monograph, three textbooks, 16 refereed journal articles.

Jörg Köhn is a marine ecologist from the Rostock University, Germany, Lecturer at various German universities 1991–1999, Guest Professor from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1997, USA, ecological economist, environmental accounting, environmental impact assessments, Senior Researcher of Beckmann Institute for Bio-Based Production Lines e.V., a private research association, transdisciplinary studies in natural and social science financed by European and German Federal State research funds, editor and author of several books of more than 220 scientific publications in both disciplines.

Adverse effects of human activities on the environment are related to economy, which is considered a primary cause of the deterioration of nature. Negative economic externalities such as environmental pollution and climate change consequences are important issues for the majority of developing and transition countries. Economic policy is regarded as a powerful mechanism for solving environmental problems. Economic policy instruments help to guide the behaviour of consumers (e.g., by encouraging them to abandon the use of resource-intensive products and services) and production methods (by motivating them to switch to green technologies). Hence, these instruments allow the control of human impacts on nature and to reduce environmental pollution.

Gradually, most countries of the world now understand that preventing environmental pollution cannot only be realised through the use of technical cleaning equipment (which also produces environmental effects at the production stages), but also by stimulating the consumption of environmentally sound goods. The use of cleaner production technologies, which are based on sustainable development (SD) paradigms such as efficiency and equity, is also very essential. SD allows the alleviation of environmental pollution problems based on the principle that the present generation should satisfy its needs in such a way that it does not prevent future generations from satisfying their needs. Environmentally-oriented transformation of the economy is manifestly present in the World Summit Rio + 20 resolutions. It is the core of a green economy.

Modern society is continuously searching for SD approaches and a way of life that respects the balance between the stock of natural resources and their use by humans. SD is often seen through the prism of specific environmental problems. However, it is important that this development should be environmentally, economically, and socially balanced.

The concept of SD requires a simultaneous and continuous redress of the multi-dimensional environmental problems in the world. SD is anchored on the complex inter-relationships between economy, society and ecology, including the ‘greening’ of socio-economic systems and their dynamics. Hence, the concept of SD requires substantial insights from different scientific disciplines and target groups or stakeholders.

SD applies multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches and methods in investigating and solving identified problems.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Environmental Technology and Management* discusses the theoretical, empirical and methodological research relating to Green Economy. The contributions from a number of developing and transition countries provide case studies which define principles, frameworks, methods and their applications to real life SD situations. This special issue of *International Journal of Environmental Technology and Management* does not only deal with classical elements of the nexus between environmental quality and economy such as energy and waste. It also treats emerging aspects like environmental services, tourism and the monetary value of cultural heritage. It targets academics, policy makers, practitioners and students. This special issue contains papers that extend the scope of managerial decision-making as regards redressing environmental problems. The publication advances the state of knowledge and its application on the transition to green economics. Particular emphasis is paid to consumption and production patterns and the establishment of economic and social basis of an eco-friendly way of life.