
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Abul Quasem Al-Amin is a Professor at the Institute of Energy Policy and Research (IEPR), Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Malaysia. He is currently the Head of Energy Economics research wing at IEPR and his research areas include in economic development and environmental modelling with the interest to climate change. He is currently associated with many research works at HAW-Germany, Springer USA, FORUMFOR FUTURE Singapore, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia, Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation, Economic Planning Unit Malaysia, Country representative of Malaysia to UNFCCC, Academy Science Malaysia, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and Sime Darby Malaysia. He is assisting countries, especially ASEAN in accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy through enhancing policymakers' capacity to promote green technologies, including renewable energy development, affordable access to clean energy for the poor, and support to industries and other economic sectors in adopting low carbon technologies.

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Additionally, he has presented 39 research papers and five posters in different international academic conferences. He has also acted as an editorial member, and reviewer of several ISI/Scopus indexed journals. His research interests include development economics; sustainability of tourism, oil palm and palm oil; disaster management; business management, marketing and international business, etc.

Introduction

This issue marks the publication of a 'special issue' through the 1st International Conference on Economics Business and Social Sciences (ICEBSS 2017). The conference was held at Lebanese International University (LIU) Lebanon – Campus Beirut, Lebanon, at 21–22 December 2017 which organised by the Center for Sustainability Research and Consultancy (CSRC) and Lebanese International University (LIU) in collaboration with School of Economics, Finance and Banking (SEFB) and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Malaysia.

After calling for the submission of the papers for this 'special issue', a number of papers were submitted for publications consideration. Finally, five papers were selected to be part of this 'special issue' after the peer-reviewed process. The first article of this 'special issue' by Rulia Akhtar et al. entitled 'Climate change adaptation: a corrective policy framework in the Malaysian agricultural sector' is an interesting introductory piece that examines, a corrective policy framework for sustainable agricultural management, it is necessary to know the socio-economic context of local farmers and their perception of climate change. The results revealed that socio-economic characteristics such as education, income, type of farmer, attitudes, and awareness were positive and highly significant. It is hoped that the findings of this study would be useful for policymakers in designing an appropriate policy framework to raise awareness in the agricultural sector.

Following this introductory piece, articles appear that examine global population issues impacting the environment by Md. Wahid Murad and Md. Mahmudul Alam, entitled 'The environmental resource management paradox in an impoverished urban population: a case study from Malaysia'. This study is such an attempt looking at the poverty-environment paradox from the perspective of an emerging country, i.e., Malaysia. Household solid wastes, if recycled, reused, and source-reduced, are widely considered environmental resources as these practices are meant to protect the environment and increase people's incomes or save costs especially for society's poorer people. This study also assesses the attitude and behaviour of the urban poor with reference to solid waste management and their willingness to pay for an improved solid waste collection and disposal service in their residential areas. However, poverty is the root cause of environmental degradation.

'Global population stabilisation policy and declining work-age population: a threat to global economic sustainability' was authored by Md. Mahmudul Alam et al. This paper discusses the situation in the exponentially growing world population, where the population is required a stabilisation policy to control the global fertility rates. This has implications for the working-age population in the future, and lead to a serious economic crisis. It is envisaged that the work-age population will have seriously declined by the

year 2050, but is still expected to look after an increasingly dependent population. This paper argued that to maintain sustainable economic growth and to support the associated technological advances in the future, there will be demand for a larger labour force.

Halima Begum et al. addressed a paper entitled 'Sustainability practices framework of the palm oil milling sub-sector: a literature survey'. This study examines the sustainability practices framework of palm oil mills in Malaysia. A sustainable practice framework, in accordance with environmental, economic, and social dimensions, is an important constituent of the palm oil milling sub-sector for its effective contribution to the national economy of Malaysia. A major threat to the palm oil mills is the adoption of a lower sustainability practices framework that can result in environmental degradation, low production, low prices of crude palm oil (CPO), and low labour costs, amongst others. The findings of the study reveal that production rates and the price of crude palm oil are decreasing, although demand remains high.

The final paper of this special issue is a review piece similarly by Halima Begum et al., and entitled 'Sustainability of Malaysian oil palm: a critical review'. This study is to assess the oil palm smallholder activities in Malaysia in order to ensure sustainability to face the global challenges and competitions of the international markets. Despite some industrial disruption, palm oil is still among the strongest industry in Malaysia. With their outstanding share, the industry has the potential to lead the market in the near future, but in the way of expansions, it must focus on sustainability issues especially related to environment, economy, and society, which can adversely or constructively influence the industry and its production.

We would like to express my sincere gratitude to all contributors and participants for this special issue. Also, I would like to very specially thank Professor Walter Leal Filho, Editor-in-Chief, for my nomination as guest editor for this special issue. It has been a great pleasure working with the authors and the editors of *IJESD* by the Inderscience publisher.