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On
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ICSD 2014, Rome, Italy
Book of Abstracts



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Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference On Sustainable Development

2nd ICSD 2014, Rome, Italy

Book of Abstracts

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Introduction

The 2nd ICSD 2014 is organized by the European Center of Sustainable Development, at the Roma Eventi- Piazza di Spagna, Via Alibert, 5 Rome, Italy from:

Friday 26 September to Saturday 27 September, 2014.

2nd ICSD2014 will be an excellent opportunity to present your projects and discuss the latest results in the field of Sustainability Science. The general aim of the conference is to promote international collaboration in Sustainability Science and related disciplines.

The Conference theme is *Creating a unified foundation for the Sustainable Development: research, practice and education*. This theme emphasizes the strong foundation that is provided by using research to inform our everyday practices, policies, and research approaches. The 2014 Conference will once again provide a forum for the sharing of ideas, presentation of research findings, and discussion of professional issues relevant to Sustainability Science.

On behalf of the Scientific Program Committee, I have great pleasure in presenting this important event of the Scientific Community.

The Conference topics are distributed in the range of the following streams within the ICSD2014 program:

- 1. Economic Sustainability:**
- 2. Environmental Sustainability:**
- 3. Socio-Cultural Sustainability:**

All abstracts were reviewed by members of the ICSD2014 Steering Committee for rating of abstract quality and presentation content. Selected papers are also published at the European Journal of Sustainable Development.

Further details in accordance with the instructions of the ICSD2014 are provided on the [Call for Papers](http://www.ecsdev.org) page at: www.ecsdev.org

I would like to thank you for your scientific contribution to the Second International Conference on Sustainable Development and look forward to having the opportunity to showcase and disseminate your research. Special thanks also to the organizing committee, and all the people that worked hard, to bring in light this considerable event.

Finally a special thank to the young group of students:

Niels Riemens, Reuben Moore, Twan van Leeuwen, Easwaran Krishnamurthy, Yash Agarwala, Daniel van Lieshout, Jesse Hetteema, Anastasios Dimou, Dozie Onwudinanti, Anish Bosch, Maria Camila Gelvez Rueda, Andrea del Muro Cuellar, Ryan Helmer from the **TU Delft** University of Technology, The Netherlands, Master of Science Program in Sustainable Energy Technology for their contribution and participation in the 2nd ICSD 2014.

Yours sincerely

[Professor Gian Paolo Caselli](#)

Chair, 2nd ICSD2014 Steering Committee

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Conference Program

Climate Justice Equality or Sufficiency

Prof. Makoto Usami

ABSTRACT

In the past two decades, a growing number of political philosophers and policy theorists have explored climate justice, namely a group of moral questions surrounding climate change and mitigation policy. A much debated issue concerns the question of how we should distribute the rights to emit greenhouse gases (GHGs) across the world for the sake of climate sustainability. Many authors, notably Peter Singer, maintain that everyone holds the right to emit equal per capita GHGs. Simon Caney objects to the equal emission view from a variety of perspectives; however, some of his criticisms are less forceful than they appear at first glance on one hand, and this view faces difficulties that Caney does not recognize on the other hand. In this paper, I examine Caney's objections and identify frequently overlooked moral and epistemological problems with GHG emission egalitarianism. Based on my negative assessment of this position, I try to develop the basic needs view, according to which everyone has the right to emit GHGs to meet her basic needs. In contrast with Caney and other proponents of this view, I elaborate it by refining sufficientarianism, which demands to secure for everyone a life above a reasonable threshold of well-being.

Keywords: GHG emission rights, equal per capita emissions, basic needs

Prof. Makoto Usami is a Professor at Kyoto University and Adjunct Professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. After receiving his LL.D., MA (highest honor in law), and BA (highest honor in law) from Nagoya University in Japan, I affiliated to Harvard University as a visiting scholar (1997-1999). He was elected Vice President of Public Policy Studies Association, Japan (2010-2012) and currently serves as a council member of the Japan Association of Legal Philosophy, an executive council member of Japan Law and Economics Association, and an editorial board member of the international journal, *Philosophy Study*. Areas of specialty include legal philosophy and political philosophy, and has published extensively on global justice, intergenerational justice, and governance for sustainability in recent years. He is the author of three books and dozens of journal articles and book chapters including "Deliberation, Expertise and Sustainability," in Kazuhiro Ueta and Yukio Adachi (eds.), *Transition Management for Sustainable Development*, United Nations University Press, 2014.

Will Budapest be a climate-resilient city? Adaptation and mitigation challenges and opportunities in development plans of Budapest

Attila Buzási

ABSTRACT

Cities are responsible for more than two third of global greenhouse gas emissions, moreover they consume the majority of resources and account for great proportion of globally generated waste. Because of concentration of population, economic activities, consumption and emissions, cities play crucial role in the abatement of negative effects of climate change. Consequently, adaptation and mitigation actions in urban areas are greatly important regarding decrease of urban vulnerability and fostering urban climate change resilience. Since approximately 20% of the Hungarian population live in Budapest, moreover 40% of the Hungarian GDP are generated here, the capital city is the hub of consumption, or in other words, it is major contributor of greenhouse gases emissions. There is growing interest in resilience-based studies not only at international scale but also in Hungary, since the second edition of National Climate Change Strategy is being published in this year, furthermore there are more and more Hungarian cities with urban climate plan. Nevertheless there is a lack of Hungarian studies with respect to urban adaptation and mitigation strategies moreover related issues such as reduction of climate exposure or urban vulnerability. The aim of this research is to analyze adaptation and mitigation actions in different development plans of Budapest, and to identify the main challenges and opportunities considering adaptation to climate change in order to Budapest will be able to become a climate-resilient city.

Key Words: Urban climate resilience, Adaptation and mitigation, Climate change

Attila Buzási is a PhD Student at the Department of Environmental Economics of Budapest University of Technology and Economics since September 2013. He graduated in 2011 with a B.Sc. degree in environmental engineering, and in 2013 with a M.Sc. degree in regional and environmental economics. His research topic is urban sustainability and related issues such as adaptation and mitigation strategies regarding climate change in urban areas. The aim of his doctoral research is to analyze the interrelation between different indicators regarding urban sustainability from ecological, economic and social aspects, furthermore to explore their potential impacts in mitigation and adaptation strategies. His goal is to provide a useful and adequate methodology to examine the interrelation between indicators and the potential goals of adaptation and mitigation strategies. Moreover to help the decision-making process of defining the main actions regarding decrease of urban vulnerability and fostering urban climate change resilience.

The Effects of Materialism and Consumer Ethics on Ecological Behavior: An Empirical Study

Assistant Professor Hulya BAKIRTAS, Canberk BULUS
 Professor Ibrahim BAKIRTAS

ABSTRACT

World populations have increased day by day. Thus, production volume of companies have increased depend on increasing population. Consequently, the type and the number of product produced have increased and natural resources both more are being used and depleted. At this point has come to the fore the consumer's environmental concern and ecological behavior and has gained importance.

This study is aimed to examine consumer ethics, environmental concern and ecological behavior all together in addition to materialism. The data of the study have been collected by questionnaire methods between dates of September and November 2013. To test the hypothesis, a sample of 415 adult Turkish was completed a questionnaire including material values scale with eighteen items adapted from Richins and Dawson (1992) for materialism, consumer ethics scale with twenty six items adapted from Vitell and Muncy (1992) for consumer ethics, NEP scale with fifteen items adapted from Dunlop et. al. (2000) for environmental concern, GREB scale with ten items adapted from Cottrell, (2003) for ecological consumer behavior. To test the hypotheses of the study, Structural Equation Model (SEM) has been used.

Keywords: Environmental concern, consumer ethics, materialism

Assistant Professor Hulya BAKIRTAS is an Assistant Professor of Marketing in the Department of Management Information Systems in Aksaray University at Turkey. I am BBA (Uludağ Un.) in Business Administration, MBA (Dumlupınar Un.) in Marketing and PhD (Sakarya Un.) in Production Management and Marketing. His current research interests are; consumer behaviour, strategic marketing and research method for business. He wrote book chapters and articles in national and international journals and presentations in conference books. He teaches marketing and business administration courses at graduate and undergraduate levels.

Canberk BULUS is working as a research assistant department of economics in Aksaray University at Turkey. Besides this he is completing a master in economics. Political Economy, Environmental Economics, Energy Economy are his special interests.

Professor Ibrahim BAKIRTAS is working at the department of economics in Aksaray University at Turkey. He is also the head of the department. Political Economy, Environmental Economics, Energy and Economy are his special interests.

Global Ecological Human Imprint, Sustainable Development and Environment: Assessment and Impacts

Professor Safwat H. Shakir Hanna, Kendal T. Harris
and Irvine W. Osborne-Lee

ABSTRACT

Ecological Human Imprint (E_{HI}), sustainability, and environment are the three points of the triangle of development. These three points are integrated between each other as important points to improve the global sustainability. The present research will present assessments and impacts of global issues of sustainability in the above points. This research will provide modeling of these points and predicts the impacts of human activities on our global Earth and its natural resources and in consequence, the economic and social impacts. Further, the model will provide assessments and suggestions about how to conserve our global environment and natural resources for the future generations. The model is constructed on data that were collected and analyzed using published data from USA Agencies; United Nation Agencies and other public published data from different countries in the world. Stella Software was used in the development of the model to make the prediction for the next 100 years.

The results of the research and the provided model are presented in three scenarios. These scenarios are the relaxed, moderate, and very conservative assumptions. In addition to these scenarios, the prediction developed according to the real-time data availability. It is predicted that the world human population will reach between 11 and 18 billion people by year 2100 depending on the different assumptions. However, according to the very conservative assumption the world human populations will be balanced to the current assumption, and this is due to the availability of natural resources to support the human carrying capacity of the Earth. It is important to point out that the human sustainability, economic sustainability, and environmental sustainability is a must to maintain the balance between use of natural resources of ecosystems and human population growth and including the high technologies' improvement that impacted in recent years. According to the model, it is very important to maintain the more efficiency of the use of natural resources. Additionally, the educational processes' efforts are very important to combat the high demands of use of natural resources and to conserve these resources for continuation of global ecosystems to support the humans on our Earth with goods and services that they are in needs. Further, it is important to maintain the global the regenerative biological capacities (i.e. renewable resources) of Earth and the non-renewable resources. Finally, the model shows that the nations should close the gabs between population growth and the economic development.

Keywords: Ecological Human Imprint (EHI) – Global Model of Sustainable Development (GMSD) – Economic Sustainability - Human Sustainability – Environmental Sustainability -

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Chemical Engineering Department, Roy G. Perry College of Engineering, Prairie View A&M University, The Texas A&M University System

Professor of US- State Department, Fulbright to Italy 2013. As a professor he graduated with Ph.D. (Environmental Science) in 1989 (State University of New York and Syracuse University, NY- USA). Professor Shakir Hanna has three Master Degrees in Environmental Management and Protection (Germany), Master Degree in Natural Resources,(Egypt), and Master Degree in Industrial Business Management (Egypt) and his B.Sc. Agriculture Engineering. Professor Shakir Hanna has authored more than 60 reviewed journal publications, a reference book about the "Role of soil fauna in sustainable development as biological agents in the soil", and a book chapter about the ecological footprint and energy in sustainable development. Finally, professor Shakir developed several funded research projects related to ecology, environmental science and sustainability, remote sensing, Ecological Footprint in the Gulf of Mexico in Southern Region of USA

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Professor Irvine W. Osborne-Lee is Head of Chemical Engineering Department at the Prairie View A&M University, The Texas A&M University System, USA.

Study of particulate matters pollution related with meteorological factors for a city from South-Central of Romania.

PhD. Eng. Gabriela MITRAN, PhD. Eng. Sorin ILIE

ABSTRACT

Reducing the effects of climate change and air pollution is at present a global priority. Development and implementation of effective policies in order to achieve these reductions is a challenge that requires a good understanding of the underlying phenomena of climate change and air pollution. This paper aims to highlight the seasonal variation of PM₁₀ concentration in Pitesti city depending on major meteorological factors (temperature, intensity of solar radiation, and relative humidity). The applied methodology consists in statistical processing, using specialized software, of a database containing historical records of concentration values of this pollutant and of meteorological parameters recorded concurrently. The results of processing a series of approximately 30000 values recorded from 2008 to 2011 indicate the fact that in every season (winter, spring, summer, and autumn) the concentration of PM₁₀ varies according to a sixth degree polynomial function, whose variable is one of the considered meteorological factors. The mathematical relationship that best approximates the variation of average PM₁₀ concentration in relation with the three meteorological factors is by the form of a multiple linear regression equation

Keywords: air pollution and human health, particulate matters related with meteorological factors, statistical analysis

PhD. Eng. Gabriela MITRAN, was graduated in Transport Engineering at Polytechnic University of Bucharest in 2007. Master Project Management, at Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest in 2010. PhD at University of Pitesti, Romania in 2012. The major field of study is transport engineering. She is a Traffic Planner for five years at Search Corporation Ltd. Bucharest, Romania and Trenmo Portugal. She has been teaching at University of Pitesti for the past four years. She was a researcher at University of Porto, Portugal. She has published 35 scientific articles in journals and proceedings of scientific conferences. Her research interests include traffic planning, air pollution, environmental management. Dr. Eng. Mitran is a member of the professional societies: *Société des Ingénieurs de l'Automobile* - France and Society of Romanian Automotive Engineers - Romania

PhD. Eng. Sorin ILIE graduated in Road Vehicles specialization in 2000 at University of Pitesti and he obtained the Master degree in Constructive Optimization of the Automobiles in 2002 at the same institution. The PhD thesis, in the field of modeling the occupants' kinematics in the automobiles' interior during the frontal impact event, was presented in 2007. The teaching career started in 2000 and now he is a PhD Engineer Lecturer in Automotive and Transport Department of Faculty of Mechanics and Technology in University of Pitesti. The major fields of study are: Passive Safety, Transportation Engineering, Automotive Manufacturing Technologies. Currently, he is the holder of Transportation systems, Handling, storage and internal transport technologies, Special transports, Materials and Sustainable Manufacturing, and Active and Passive Safety of Road Vehicles courses in his department. He has published articles in ISI journals, in proceedings of international conferences and in scientific journals and bulletins. He conducted 3 studies and research projects, and as a member of project teams participated in over 15 such research focused on sustainable road transport. It is author or co-author of 5 books on automobile engineering.

Geotechnical Field and Laboratory Investigation Procedures Pertinent to the Development of Commercial On-Shore Wind Farms in Ireland.

MSc. Michael Edward Quille

ABSTRACT

In the last decade, both the Irish landscape and construction industry has seen a dramatic increase in the number of commercial on-shore wind farm developments. Geotechnical field and laboratory based testing procedures play a critical role in the development, design and construction of wind farms. A comprehensive knowledge of the ground conditions and soil parameters prevailing across the development footprint are necessary to facilitate a site specific infrastructure and turbine foundation design; therefore, reducing associated construction risks and ensuring that an economic construction programme can be premeditated. This paper presents some geotechnical field and laboratory based procedures pertinent to both the development and design of commercial on-shore wind farms in Ireland. The various procedures are compared in terms of suitability of the test procedure for the soil type encountered and geotechnical design soil parameters derived. Although each geotechnical site investigation scheme is both an iterative and unique process, a phased approach relating to a rough peat moor land typically encountered across wind farm sites in Ireland is presented.

Keywords: Renewable Energy, Geotechnical, Site Investigation

Michael Edward Quille graduated in 2007 with a strong first class honours degree in Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering from Trinity College Dublin (TCD). Following this, Michael commenced a two-year research Masters' degree (MSc) in the field of geotechnical engineering during which he was fully funded by postgraduate studentship research awards from both TCD and the Geotechnical Trust Fund of Engineers Ireland. Following his research masters, Michael commenced his working career as a graduate geotechnical engineer with Whiteford Geoservices Ltd, where he worked as a specialist ground investigation contractor providing geotechnical, geophysical and environmental services. In March 2011, Michael joined Byrne Looby Partners Geotechnical Consulting Engineers. At Byrne Looby Partners (BLP) Michael was afforded the opportunity to progress his engineering theory and management skills

The Development of Renewable Energy Sources in Turkey Turkey's Energy-Related Challenges

MSc.Mumin Atalay CETIN, Assoc/Prof. Ali VARDAR

ABSTRACT

Especially in last two decades, most of the developed and developing countries around the world have been supporting the researches that investigates more clean and sustainable energy sources. Because of the environmental issues and the source of fossil fuel are becoming scarce, renewable energy sources play more important role in today's increasingly globalized energy market.

The aim of this study is to determine the present potential and sufficiencies of the main sources of renewable energy such as solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal and biomass at Turkey. In this regard, even Turkey has a remarkable potential especially in hydro, wind, solar and geothermal energies among Europe, renewable energy sources ratio in Turkey's total energy consumption is not rising at desired level.

On the other side Turkey have to face with some energy related challanges such as rising (GHGs) emission as a result of rapidly using of fossil fuel sources and bad affects of fossil fuel prices increase on current account deficit. Whitin this context, as a foreign dependent country on fossil fuel energy (especially on crude oil and natural gas), Turkey should rapidly change it's energy policy from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources which are domestic, clean and much more cheaper.

Keywords: Renewable Energy Potential; Sustainable Development; Turkey.

MSc.Mumin Atalay CETIN, is working as a research asistant in Aksaray University at Turkey. Graduated master program in 2011/2012. Master thesis about 'Efficiency Wages Model of the Labour Market'. He is still doing his Phd at Aksaray University. The subjects such as Sustainable Economic Development, Energy Economics, Renewable and Sustainable Energy and Ecological Economics are his special interests

Assoc/Prof. Ali VARDAR is working as an Associate Professor at the department of Biosystems Engineering in Uludag University at Turkey. Especially Renewable Energy such as Solar Energy (particularly Photovoltaic Systems) and Wind Energy are his professions.

Mid-term (2030) Potential for Solar Thermal Capture and Tri-generation of Distributed Heating, Cooling, and Electric Generation

Democratizing International Energy Supply through Distributed and Efficient Solar Thermal Energy Capture.

MSc. Christopher Beebe

ABSTRACT

Removing concern for energy supply allows for greater attention and resources to be focused on other environmental, cultural, economic and social concerns. Solar energy when used in its thermal form is the most efficient method of capture.

Conversion to final use form after capture - rather than before (as in photovoltaic) - gives rise to a greater raw collection of energy which provides additional flexibility and value through the simultaneous production of heating, cooling, and electricity. Additionally, since it is more efficiently captured, smaller amounts of collector arrays must be installed reducing material and labor costs and improving deployment potential over other methods of fossil fuel and renewable energies.

With a total achievable annual generation larger than wind, biomass, or tidal, trigeneration using the most efficient method of solar capture and is a necessary cornerstone in a stable and long-term international energy economy.

With available technologies and an investment of 0.1% of GDP, solar thermal tri-generation can meet 14% of the World's energy demand by 2030.

Keywords: Solar Thermal, Heating, Cooling, Electricity, Renewable Energies, Deployment Potential

Christopher Beebe M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering, Professional Licensed Engineer in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

CEO of BEAM Engineering, author of the United States Renewable Heating and Cooling Roadmap prepared for the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA). International leader in development of renewable heating and cooling policy, engineering, and design.

Influence of a Small Hydroelectric Power Station on the River Ecosystem.

Characterization of ecological and chemical water quality.

Dr.Enrique Valero, Dr.Juan Picos, PhD Student Xana Álvarez

ABSTRACT

To assess the effects of the Small Hydroelectric Power Station (SHP) on the fluvial ecosystem, some environmental values are required to measure. This work provides a characterization of the water quality status in a river stretch around a SHP plant on river Mandeo, (NW Spain), for three years after its construction. The ecological and chemical status of the water and the ecological quality of the riparian habitat was analyzed and comparing with the water quality requirements. The results showed that there were not significant differences between sampling points (before and after of the plant), as well as a stabilization of the parameters within two years after the construction of the Station, achieving conditions ecologically compatible. We concluded that the construction of the SHP plant caused an adverse effect in the ecosystem, which was subsequently improved. Highly positive results from the point of view of their contribution as a source of renewable energy.

Keywords: Biological index, physicochemical, SHP plant, riparian forest quality index.

Dr.Enrique Valero is Professor and Director of Forestry School, University of Vigo, Spain. Head of AF-4 Research Group where investigates on environmental monitoring of the water status and assess environmental impact: field sampling and study of the physicochemical parameters of the water, noise studies, habitat assessment in rivers, improvement of riparian forests, assessment of small hydropower plants, etc. We carry out projects with the aim of river restoration to increase ecosystem goods and services, and to convert damaged freshwater systems into sustainable ones whilst protecting downstream and ecosystems (Projects by the Regional Government).

Dr.Juan Picos is Professor at the: Department of Natural Resources and Engineering and Environment, University of Vigo, Spain.

Xana Álvarez Researcher and PhD Student at the: Department of Natural Resources and Engineering and Environment, University of Vigo, Spain

She is conducting a research of doctoral thesis with the aim to analyze the water quality of reservoirs and rivers, and determining its influence on the proliferation of the cyanobacterium *Microcystis* spp. (eutrophication), taking into account factors that may influence such as air temperature, solar radiation, rainfall, etc.

Her experience, research and activity in the AF4 Research Group in WATER RESOURCES are:

Improvement of the state of water resources (quantity and quality).

Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Pollution of water (agricultural, livestock, rural areas and industries origin).

Eutrophication

Renewable water resources.

Climate change.

Ecosystem restoration: river, riparian forest and ecological corridors.

Innovate and sustainable solutions: bioengineering, buffer strips, green infrastructure, bioenergy.

Planning, monitoring and Management of Water Resources: River Basin Management Plans and

Evaluation of Natural Resources.

Environmental Impacts Assessment

Sustainable energy model based on an intensive use of renewable energy.

Application to a southern Spanish region.

Dr. Julio Terrados

F.J. Gallego, P.J. Pérez, E. Ruiz-Ramos, I. Romero, A.M. Martínez-Rodríguez,
E. Castro

ABSTRACT

The paper presents the main results of the MODENER research project ("Energy model based on an intensive use of renewable energy applied to Jaen province") that is aimed to assess the production capacity of olive pruning biomass, and PV massive grid integration, that will be usable for electricity generation and its distribution across the province of Jaén, in a realistic way.

Main results arisen from the project highlight that more than 750.000 biomass tons can be yearly generated from olive pruning, which means that more than 70 MW of power can be installed, and that Solar PV can be extensively used to cover up to 40% of the electricity demand in the region

MODENER research project ("Energy model based on an intensive use of renewable energy applied to Jaen province"), that is currently being developed at University of Jaen, is intended to research, analyze and develop an energy model based on an intensive use of renewable energy for generating electricity, applied to the province of Jaén (Andalusia, southern Spain).

The methodology, based on the intensive use of GIS tools, includes the development of a distribution map of olive trees whose pruning residuals are likely to be exploited for energy purposes, including information on major agroclimatic variables characterizing them. Furthermore, an extensive field experience based on sampling data in different parts of the region (weighing of pruning olive residuals and characterization of olive trees) will enable us to determine the variables affecting olive pruning biomass production and to develop a biomass generation predictive model. The application of this predictive model to the distribution map characterizing olive trees will also allow us to generate a realistic distribution map of olive pruning biomass.

Keywords: Sustainable energy; biomass; solar photovoltaics

Julio Terrados Cepeda is Doctor in Aeronautical Engineer and Master in Business Administration (M.B.A.). Holds a position of Associate Professor at University of Jen in the field of Engineering Projects, and is Vice-chancellor of Strategic Planning, Quality and Social Responsibility of the International University of Andalusia.

He has been Manager of Strategic Planning of University of Jaen, and Director of the Projects Department. In the private sector he has been Director of the energy management agency of Jaen region, Control manager at EADS-CASA and International affairs director of Cánava Electrónica S.A. He belongs to IDEA research group, focusing his studies in the field of sustainable energy planning and renewable resources assessment. He is author and co-author of books, papers, and communications in conferences on renewable energies and has coordinated research projects in this field.

Dr. F.J. Gallego Professor of Engineering Graphics at the University of Jaen, Spain.

Dr. P.J. Perez is Professor at the Dept. of Electronics, University of Jaen, Spain.

Dr. E. Castro is Professor at the Dept. of Chemist Engineering, University of Jaen, Spain.

The Outage Economy. Impact of forced electricity interruption on Economic Growth.

Dr. Aranit Shkurti

ABSTRACT

This study examines the electricity market in some East European countries. The Power systems in some transition economies are not able to supply a reliable service to households and other customers. This inefficiencies are due to multiple factors, such as limited generation and production sources, obsolete transmission and distribution grid etc. In some countries are present also some power evasion through illegal connections to the grid, that damage further the system. This paper analysis the effect of this power outage over the entire system through some econometric methods, using panel data from several countries. Data show different reaction to the power outage between countries, specially related to the share of the industry sector over the GDP. The estimation of possible economic performance are shown through some stochastic scenarios. Finally a general reflection from the sustainability prospective of this realities.

Key words: electricity, power, grid, transmission, generation

Dr. Aranit Shkurti is a Lecturer of Econometrics at the Canadian Institute of Technology. He had a PhD from the Sapienza University of Rome in Energy Policy and scenario modeling. Master degree in Statistics from the same Sapienza University of Rome. He is author of several papers in the Energy Economics field.

Feeding patterns of resident fishes in Thai mangrove estuary: Implications for conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources

Assist. Prof. Dr. Siraprapha PREMCHAROEN

ABSTRACT

Stomach contents of 12 resident fishes inhabiting the Mae Klong mangrove estuary, inner Gulf of Thailand were examined. Relative diet composition was described by the points method. Measurements were made also of gut fullness, diet breadth and vacuity index. Interspecific variations in diet were described by Bray Curtis coefficients and grouped, based on similarity coefficients, into nine feeding clusters. Of these, most diets were dominated by sergestid shrimps, zooplankton, phytoplankton, benthic invertebrates, shrimps, polychaetes, fishes, insects and detritus. Zooplankton was the most common dietary item by all fishes examined (25.2%). Food intake was low for most fish with fullness values of 0.58 to 2.07. Overall diet breadth was relatively low among species and ranged from 0.13 for *Aspericorvina jubata* to 0.46 for *Dendrophysa russelli*. Vacuity index ranged from 4.70 to 58.23 among species, with indices for most species >20. There was a clearly significant difference in the percentage composition of food items among seasons and ontogenetic changes ($P=0.001$). The results from this study can serve as a reference for feeding ecology of fish in the Mae Klong Estuary and in sustainable use and management of fisheries resources in the area.

Keywords: Fish feeding, Mae Klong estuary, Thai mangrove

Assist. Prof. Dr. Siraprapha Premcharoen has been working as a faculty member at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Science, Kasetsart University, Thailand since 1993. Her teaching and researches involved with fish ecology and ecotrophic modelling (Ecopath/Ecosim) in the mangrove estuary of the Gulf of Thailand.

Modification in the biochemical characteristics and phenolic antioxidant potential of coriander leaves (*Coriandumsativum*) under foliar treatments of plant growth regulators

Dr. Bushra Sultana, Dr. Maryam Aslam

ABSTRACT

Sustainable agriculture has ensured the specific food production strategies to run diverged ecosystems. To this context, attempt was made to explore the possible effects of foliar application of plant growth regulators (PGRs) to receive optimum response regarding antioxidant and biochemical constituent of coriander (*Coriandumsativum*) leaves.

Methodology: Selected PGRs; *Moringaleaf* extract (MLE), humic acid (HA) and 6-benzylamino purine (6-BAP) were applied alone and in combinations. The treated samples were separately analyzed at three growth stages and results were compared.

Results: Among the biochemical assessments, the following values were determined, Melondialdehyde (MDA) contents: 8.13-29.14 ng/mole FW; proline contents: 13.21-47.12 µg/g FW; total soluble proteins (TSPs): 5.69-22.01 µg/g FW and total chlorophyll and carotenoids: 1697.18-5959.53 µg/g FW and 254.57-893.92 µg/g FW, respectively. In addition, during estimation of total phenolic content (TPC) and the antioxidant potential, the observed results were: 3.98-12.18 mg GAE/g DM for TPC, 0.591-1.619 (10.0 mg/mL extract concentration) for reducing power and 0.121-0.987 µg/mL (IC₅₀ values) for DPPH[•] scavenging assays.

Conclusion: Received outcomes highlighted positive impact of all PGRs at all growth stages. However, MLE treatment presented itself as a versatile PGR in regimes of biochemical assays as well as antioxidant activities.

Keywords: PGR, antioxidants, coriander,

Dr. Bushra Sultana is an Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

She holds a M.Sc. in Chemistry from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad in the year 2002, and Ph.D. from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad in 2009. Presently she is working at the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, as Assistant Professor and group member of a research group entitled "Bioanalytical and Applied Chemistry". Main areas of research interest include characterization of natural antioxidants from botanical sources under variable conditions.

Presently a group of about 35 M.Phil, M.Sc and PhD research students are working under her supervision. She has published a significant number of research publications in International/ HEC recognized journals with, contributing total impact factor of 30 to her credit. She got Research Productivity Award (2012) from Pakistan Council for Science and Technology, Pakistan.

Dr. Maryam Aslam is Assistant Professor at the Dept. of Chemistry, GCWU, Madina Town, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Evolution of Eutrophication depending on Environmental Conditions: A Case Study in a Reservoir.

Xana Álvarez PhD Candidate, Dr. Enrique Valero, Dr. Juan Picos

ABSTRACT

In the last years, the phenomenon of eutrophication is affecting many river ecosystems. Besides being an environmental problem, it can also be a problem for human health. This study aims to explore how environmental parameters affect the concentration of green algae and cyanobacteria throughout the period from 2010 to 2013 in A Baxe reservoir (NW Spain). Factors such as temperature, rainfall and solar radiation influenced in the presence of the algae, as well as in its concentration. Being limiting factors in the cyanobacterial blooms. The highest value of chlorophyll occurs during the summer, with higher temperatures, coinciding with the dry season and with a light cycle of 15/9 light/dark cycle. We conclude that predictive models can be designed using the weather forecast that are currently available well in advance, with the result that water managers can know when it will be probable that a bloom take place as an early warning system, therefore they will have a protocol of action.

Keywords: freshwater ecosystems, cyanobacteria blooms, temperature, dry season,

Xana Álvarez is a **PhD Student** and Researcher at the: Department of Natural Resources and Engineering and Environment, University of Vigo, Spain

She is conducting a research of doctoral thesis with the aim to analyze the water quality of reservoirs and rivers, and determining its influence on the proliferation of the cyanobacterium *Microcystis* spp. (eutrophication), taking into account factors that may influence such as air temperature, solar radiation, rainfall, etc.

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Pollution of water (agricultural, livestock, rural areas and industries origin).

Eutrophication

Renewable water resources.

Climate change.

Ecosystem restoration: river, riparian forest and ecological corridors.

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Dr.Enrique Valero is Professor and Director of Forestry School, University of Vigo, Spain. Head of AF-4 Research Group where investigates on environmental monitoring of the water status and assess environmental impact: field sampling and study of the physicochemical parameters of the water, noise studies, habitat assessment in rivers, improvement of riparian forests, assessment of small hydropower plants, etc. We carry out projects with the aim of river restoration to increase ecosystem goods and services, and to convert damaged freshwater systems into sustainable ones whilst protecting downstream and ecosystems (Projects by the Regional Government).

Dr.Juan Picos is Professor at the: Department of Natural Resources and Engineering and Environment, University of Vigo, Spain.

Pollution of bogs in Tomsk region (Western Siberia, Russia) as an indicator of sustainable development.

Dr. Antonina Mezhibor

ABSTRACT

Wetlands play a key role in the climatic balance of our planet. Thus, their protection from anthropogenic pollution is an important target for sustainable development of environment. Wetlands have a special significance for the Siberian region of Russia where they take great territories. Peat bogs, being unique ecosystems among wetlands, have properties to save the history of atmospheric pollution. The particularity of peat bogs is determined by their nutrition - they receive chemical elements mostly from atmosphere. Some peat bogs in Siberia (Tomsk region, Russia) were studied to determine the degree of environment pollution during the last century and the change of geochemical composition of peat in time. These studies determined the increase of pollution in the region from the middle of 20th century because of the sharp industrial development. The data on the pollution of peat bogs allow concluding that the geochemical peculiarities of different parts of Tomsk region influenced by different types of industry: nuclear facility, coal-burning power stations and oil refineries. The results of the studies can be used for the development of recommendations in the decrease of the industry influence for the sustainable development of Siberian region.

Keywords: Wetlands, peat bog, atmosphere pollution

Dr. Antonina Mezhibor is an Associate professor at the Institute of Natural resources, Tomsk Polytechnic University, Russia

Education: 2003 - diploma on geoecology; Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU), 2009 - PhD degree, TPU.

Work experience: 2009-2010 - senior teacher, TPU; 2010-present - associate professor, TPU.

Disciplines: geoecology, radioecology, nature protection.

Scientific interests: atmosphere pollution, biogeochemistry of peat.

Development and Environment in Iran (case study: Urmia Lake).

Associate Professor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Dr. Zahra Moussavi

ABSTRACT

In recent decades, environmental issues have linked to development policies. Human interaction with nature during the time plays an important role in the process of development. Since more than six decades ago to now, many theoretical and conceptual changes have occurred in the development discourse. First, "grow" as increase in GDP was set on the top of the agenda of governments and the nature was considered as a facilitator for development programs. But gradually, it was clear that although implementation of development programs improves the living conditions and increases the income of countries, but due to irregular use of nature, it makes many environmental problems around the world. Then, continuity of development may be questioned. So, the concept of sustainable development was considered by the international community. Study of development programs in Iran too, shows that in most cases, planning is done without regard to sustainable development and it has been only with the goal of economic growth.

This trend has led to many environmental problems in Iran such as drying of the Urmia Lake as the second salt lake of the world. The purpose of this research with such an approach is to assess the impacts of development programs in Iran on environmental problems of the Urmia Lake. To do this, an analytic and explanatory method and accumulation of data have been adopted to carry a library and document based research. The findings suggest that the drying up of the Urmia Lake has been affected by human factors more than natural factors.

Keywords: Development, Environment, Urmia Lake

Associate Professor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. He is **Mayor of Tehran**, and Associate Professor of Political Geography. He began teaching in University of Tehran in 2003. His first book on local government was published in 2007, while his five other books are now available on geopolitics. As an associate professor of the political geography, he has published his research in various fields in the form of more than 35 articles. A third academic field to which he is devoting his energy and attention is advising graduate students with their PhD dissertations and MA theses. As the Mayor of Tehran he founded Asian Mayors Forum (www.asianmayors.org) in Tehran in 2008 and concurrently was elected as one of the world leading mayors by City Mayors group (www.worldmayors.org) because of his outstanding performance at the top of Tehran metropolis management. He is a member of Iranian Geopolitical Association, Iranian Geographers Association, and Urban Management Scientific Association.

Dr. Zahra Moussavi is a PhD Candidate in Political Geography at the Department of Political Geography, Faculty of Geography, University of Tehran. Her first book about Decentralization and Sustainable Development in Iran published in 2011. She has published 5 research papers in research journals and presented 8 papers in national and international conferences. She is interested in critical geography, political geography and the environment, political economy, environmental security, and climate change. Member of Iranian Association of Geopolitics.

Study of the best orientation for parabolic concentrator kind of PolyTrough

Dr. Sharif Mohamed Alamen

ABSTRACT

In this study, the best guide for Compound Parabolic Concentrator kind of (PolyTrough) has been evaluated by controlling the angle of incidence of beam radiation. The PolyTrough track the radiation of the sun by moving in prescribed ways to minimize the angle of incidence of the beam radiation on their surfaces and thus maximize the incident beam radiation. Tracking systems are classified according to their motions and rotations into five systems and they are: single axis, which is usually horizontal east-west and moving once (system I), continuously (System II), horizontal north-south (system III,IV) moving continuously and parallel to the earth's axis respectively , or it can be about two axes (system V). We estimated the amount of direct solar radiation in each system controller and then the comparison between the different control methods has been estimated. The results of the study have showed that the system V collects the largest amount of direct solar radiation, but the cost of this system is very expensive due to the presence of two types of collector's motion. While the fourth (IV) system, is distinguished from the rest of the systems, because it collects a large amount of solar radiation in the winter and decreases in the summer, where this system depends on the angle of the latitude of the site. The control system of the third kind (System III), which is less expensive than the type V and as it moves around one axis only, it collects the amount of solar energy approaching the system V especially in summer. The systems I and II collected values are close to each other, and although that these two systems collect a small amount of the solar radiation during the day comparing to the rest of the systems, this small amount of radiation is considered to be acceptable in the some studied areas (e.g. South Libya).

Keywords: PolyTrough, angle of incidence, direct solar radiation.

The Character of Dual Site Adsorbent on Coal Fly Ash Toward Benzene Adsorption

Dr. Widi Astuti, Prof.Dr. I Made Bendiyasa, Prof.Dr. Endang Tri Wahyuni
Dr. Agus Prasetya

ABSTRACT

Large quantities of coal fly ash (CFA) are produced during the combustion of coal in the production of electricity. Most of this ash has not been widely used. CFA is mainly composed of some oxides including Al_2O_3 and SiO_2 having active site and unburned carbon as a mesopore that enables it to act as a dual site adsorbent. To get different characters of dual site, CFA was sieved using 150 mesh size, heated at 400°C and reacted with sodium hydroxide solution. Furthermore, CFA were used as adsorbent of benzene in aqueous solutions. Equilibrium data were evaluated by single site and dual site isotherm models. It can be concluded that single site yielded excellent fit with equilibrium data of benzene. The value of maximum amount adsorbed (q_m) and Langmuir constant (K_L) were be affected by $[\text{Si}+\text{Al}]/\text{C}$ ratio on CFA. The increase of $[\text{Si}+\text{Al}]/\text{C}$ ratio causes a decrease of the value of q_m and K_L .

Keywords: coal fly ash, adsorption, benzene

Widi Astuti graduated from the doctoral program at Chemical Engineering Department, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia in September, 2013. Her dissertation entitled *The Character of Dual Site Adsorbent on Coal Fly Ash Toward Pb(II), Methyl Violet and Benzene* acquire cum laude. She serve as a faculty member at the Chemical Engineering Department, Semarang State University, Semarang, Indonesia. In recent years, she focuses on the application of coal fly ash for adsorbent. Some research funded by Directorate for Research and Community Service, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education Republic Indonesia, including *Synthesis of Adsorbent Based on Solid Waste from Power Plant and Its Application for Electroplating Wastewater Treatment* in 2013-2014.

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New Equation for Estimating Outdoor Thermal Comfort in Humid-Tropical Environment

Prof.Dr. Sangkertadi Sangkertadi
Reny Syafriny, M.Arch

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the results of research focusing on thermal comfort at outdoor spaces in humid tropical climate. The study was conducted in the city of Manado, Indonesia in the years 2011 and 2012, by way of field experimentation and measurements of micro-climate. From the results of measurements and questionnaires, it was carried out development of regression equations. Through statistical analysis it has been generated three thermal comfort equations for outdoor, which each for normal walking, brisk walking, and sitting with doing a moderate activity. Equations are functions of T_a (air temperature), T_g (globe temperature), v (wind velocity), RH(Relative humidity) and A_{du} (body surface area). The output of the equations is scale of thermal comfort level referring to PMV (Predicted Mean Vote), where 0 is comfortable or neutral, +3 is very hot, -2 is cold, .etc. The equations are limited to the people wearing tropical clothing type (about 0.5 to 0.7 clo). The validation of the equations was done through comparison with other equations that originated from the studies of non-tropical humid climates. Simulations using the equations were also be done in order to know effect of micro climate on outdoor thermal comfort.

Keywords: thermal comfort, tropical-humid, open-space

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Effectiveness Of Use Of Nanostructure Minerals – Bentonite Of Taganskiy Deposit For Waste Water Clearing In Metallurgy Industry

Sharbanu Muzdybaeva., Askarova Gaukhar
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ABSTRACT

The currently used traditional method of waste water treatment based on the precipitation of heavy metals by iron hydroxide formed at the time of neutralization (liming) / bleach (active chlorine) doesn't correspondent to the standards of maximum permissible concentration (MPC) in practical meaning. In this regard, the urgent task is the use of natural materials as sorbents due to the relatively high sorption capacity, selectivity, having cation-exchange properties and the possibility of almost complete removal of heavy metal ions. Another important factor is their relatively low cost and availability (sometimes as a local material). We believe that the use of scientific-based combinations of different ways in waste water treatment based on the success of modern chemistry allows opening new and perspective opportunities in this area.

Key Words: Waste Water, Metallurgy, Bentonite, Zeolites, Groundwater

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Environmental Sustainability Of Animal Food Products: A Life Cycle Assessment Of Small Scale Goat Milk Production Chain

Carbon Footprint of Dairy Goat Milk

Dr. Pier Paolo Danieli
Prof. Bruno Ronchi

ABSTRACT

The environmental sustainability of goat milk production and processing is poorly investigated even though goat a very important dairy species, particularly for developing Countries.

For this study a dairy goat farm located in the Province of Rome has been considered. Within this farm, a cheese factory existed but raw milk was the main dairy goat product. A "from cradle to farm gate" Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approach was adopted to calculate the global warming potential (GWP) of one liter of "fat and protein corrected milk", adopted as functional unit (FU). As necessary, some feeding-related input data not available in sectorial databases have been estimated.

The GWP were widely attributable to livestock feeding (98,1%). On the whole production chain, it has been estimated an emission of 1.26 kg CO₂-Eq per FU. This estimate is high if compared with cow milk but it is in line with some previous estimates for goat and sheep milk.

Environmental performance of dairy products may be adequately estimated and used to monitor further efforts in lowering the impact on climate change by dairy systems also in developing countries. However, the gap in input data has to be filled before LCA can be efficiently applied to this sector.

Keywords: Dairy goats; climate change; Life Cycle Assessment.

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Pier Paolo graduated in 1997 in Biological Sciences - bio-ecological specialization - at the University of Tuscia.

Several contracts for research collaboration were awarded to him from 2001 to 2008 within some National research programs carried out by the Animal Production Department of the University of Tuscia (Viterbo - Italy).

From 2005 he is a Ph. D. in "Applied Biochemistry and Chemistry"

He worked as a teacher in theoretical and practical lessons for academical courses at the University of Tuscia. He is a co-author of several scientific and technical works published through national and international paper.

He was appointed as "Academic Expert" by the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Tuscia and from 2009 he works as Academic Researcher. He is member of several scientific Associations and in 2013 he was co-founding of the Italian Association for Sustainability Science (IASS).

Prof. Bruno Ronchi is Full Professor at the Department of Agriculture, Forests, Nature and Energy (DAFNE), University of Tuscia, Italy.

Emergy evaluation of a traditional farming system. Case study: Leh District (Indian Trans-Himalaya)

Dr. Vladimiro Pellicciardi, Prof. Leonardo Varvaro,
PhD Federico Maria Pulselli

ABSTRACT

Ladakh traditional farming system has been included on the F.A.O. list of possible “Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems”, worthy of being preserved and conserved. The paper describes and assesses cultivation practices in a typical family-managed farm, located in central Ladakh, analysing how natural resources are exploited, conserved and recycled. Emergy evaluation, an environmental accounting methodology, was applied to evaluate and compare five staple crop productions: barley, wheat, pea, mustard, and fodder alfalfa. Unit Emergy Values of these productions (UEV, emergy per unit product, a measure of the environmental production cost) are calculated, taking into account the inputs to production such as water from glaciers, soil fertility, human and animal labour, and more. Results show that the traditional agricultural practices in Ladakh, completely supported by renewable flows, are efficient in the use of local resources. In fact, the UEVs of agroproducts are similar to those of analogous products of conventional agriculture (e.g. $5.27E+05$ and $6.64E+05$ semj/J for barley and wheat in Ladakh, respectively; $7.37E+05$ semj/J for corn in USA), though the inputs of Ladakh agriculture are strongly limited in type and quantity. At the same time, local farmers can create, maintain and rebuild soil functions whose UEV is $1.62E+07$ semj/J.

Keywords: Ladakh, agrosystem, emergy evaluation, environment

Vladimiro Pellicciardi is a researcher at Ecodynamics Group, Siena, Italy. He was the Renewable Energy Suitable Technologies Consulting Engineer, UNITUSCIA, Viterbo, Italy at the time of the “Promotion of olive production and consumption in Nepal” international cooperation project (2005-2008). He got his Ph.D. in “Sustainable development and International Cooperation” at CIRPS, Interuniversity Research Centre on Sustainable Development, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy. His research interests include topics of human-environment interaction and sustainable development studies in Asia with a regional focus on the Indian and Nepalese Himalaya. In 1993 he was in Cambodia as UNV Engineer in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), a UN peace keeping mission.

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Food Security in Rural Areas of Vaishali District, India: A Household Level Analysis

Haroon Sajjad, Iffat Nasreen

ABSTRACT:

Food security has been one of the major developmental objectives in India. Though India has sufficient food production yet the achievement did not percolate down to households. This paper reports on an investigation into the food security status in Vaishali district of Bihar. Data were gathered across 16 administrative divisions in the district and eventually 959 farmers' households were sampled using stratified random sampling techniques. This allowed computing composite food security index to assess the relative status of food security of the sampled farmers. The findings revealed that 75 % of the sampled households have low food security. Within farmers' categories, most of the large farmers had high food security. Medium farmers experienced moderate food security while semi-medium, small and marginal farmers were having low food security. Bivariate regression analyses between food security and its components of all the farmers shows food availability has a major impact on food security as 93 % variation in food security is explained by variation in food availability. The study suggested that priority should be accorded for creating rural employment opportunities, providing infrastructure for increasing production and creating awareness of education for long term sustainability of food security in the study area.

Key words: Food security components, Food security, India

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Sustainable development of the Polish meat industry after accession to the European Union

mgr Mirosława Tereszczuk, dr inż. Robert Mroczek,

ABSTRACT

The last decade, i.e. 2003-2013, was a period of intensive development of the Polish meat industry, in which Poland's accession to the European Union definitely had its share. The meat industry in Poland has been developing faster than in the EU-15 and Poland was the leader of EU-12. The EU integration had a positive impact on accelerating the production growth in the Polish meat industry, and several years of the process of adjustment to the EU requirements significantly changed the image of the Polish meat companies on the common European market. The Polish meat industry became a significant food producer on the European market (in 2012 fourth place in the EU) and the Polish meat processing plants are recognised as some of the most advanced in the EU. One of the main factors of meat industry development in Poland in the past decade was its very fast development.

Key words: sustainable development, meat industry, meat products, export, import

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Studies at the Faculty of Economics of Agriculture Agricultural University, master's degree in 1997; 1998-2002 doctoral studies at the Faculty of Economic and agricultural Agricultural University; 2002 title Ph.D. in economics. PhD thesis Fri "The links between producers and establishments on the market of live pigs"; since November 1998 worked at the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Food Economy in the Department of Economics of the Food Industry. Currently, the task manager in the multiannual program 2011-2014: Polish adaptation processes of the food industry to the changing market environment. "Author of about 100 publications related to the agri-food sector.

Biosecurity Adoption on Cattle Farms in Indonesia

V.S.Lestari; S.N. Sirajuddin and A. Asnawi

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to know biosecurity adoption on beef cattle farms. This research was conducted for a month at Barru regency, South Sulawesi province, which famous as one of beef cattle breeding villages in Indonesia. Sample was choosed through random sampling. Total sampel was 30 beef cattle farmers. Data were collected through observation and interview. Biosecurity measures consisted of 35 indicators which was grouped into 4 namely: management practice, sanitation, disease and disease prevention, and calf management. Each indicator was devided into two groups: adopt and not adopt. Data were analysed descriptively. The results revealed that 47.4% of beef cattle farmers have adopted biosecurity on their farms and was catagorized as a "partial adopter". This percentage should be increased in order to increase meat production and food safety.

Keywords: adoption, biosecurity, beef cattle, farmers

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She has been a lecturer at Faculty of Animal Science since 2011. Before coming to Makassar, South Sulawesi, she worked at Animal Husbandry Service in Jakarta Municipality for 16 years. After she got scholarship from AIDAB and got the Master degree (1995) from the University of New England - Armidale - New South Wales - Australia, she moved to Makassar to follow her husband who is also a lecturer at the same university. Interested in socio- economic studies.

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An investigation of microclimatic influence of a forest edge micro-climate on agricultural production

Manyanya T.C¹ and Kori E^{1*}

ABSTRACT

Human social structures and their development significantly depend on the maintenance and conservation of the environmental resources they require for survival. Forests have been known to be sources of raw materials and resources for sectors of human livelihoods such as healthcare, household uses and agriculture, among others. Understanding the influence of forests on agriculture not only improves the agricultural practices but also enhances eco-friendly development and sustainability. This paper investigates the relationship between forest edge microclimates and agricultural crop production. The study adopted a Bio-geographical approach buttressed on the Mono-Climax Theory (MCT) and Holdridge's Deterministic Approach (HAD). Data for this study comprised of agricultural crop production for 2012 collected from farmers along the edge of Thathe Forest in Limpopo, South Africa, in all the four cardinal directions. Vegetation density and composition from the forest edge in all the four cardinal directions was collected through quadrats. Linear regression between agricultural productivity, as the dependent variable, and vegetation composition and density, as independent variables, was employed to determine the relationship. Results reveal that agricultural crop production, vegetation density decrease and composition change as one moves from the forest edge. We conclude that Thathe forest creates an important micro-climate for agriculture. As such the forest should be conserved for sustainable agricultural production and development.

Key terms: Micro-climate, Bio-geographical, sustainability, vegetation, agriculture.

Mr. Tshildzi Claudia Manyanya is currently a Masters in Environmental Sciences student at the University of Venda, South Africa. The Masters degree is under the department of Geography specializing with a research interest in applications of GIS and Remote Sensing in Agro-ecology, Climate change and Economic Sustainability. Undergraduate Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree was obtained from the University of Cape Town majoring in Ocean and Atmosphere Sciences. Honors degree was obtained from University of Venda with distinction in research focusing on Forest Micro-Climates and Agriculture. Other research interests include applications of GIS and Remote sensing in Sustainability, Physical Geography, natural and marine sciences.

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A Review of Soil Erosion Models with Special Reference to the needs of Humid Tropical Mountainous Environments

Augustine Avwunudiogba^{1*} and Paul Franklin Hudson²

ABSTRACT

Humid tropical mountainous environments (HTMEs) are generally considered sensitive ecological regions because anthropogenic disturbance often accelerate hillslope processes such as runoff, erosion, and sediment flux. Reducing accelerated erosion is necessary for the maintenance of the integrity, stability and sustainability of HTMEs. Soil erosion models (SOMs) are potential tools for predicting soil erosion, sediment flux, and the design and assessment of effectiveness of conservation management practices in HTMEs. Within this context, this study provides a critical review of the available SOMs with a focus on their applicability in HTMEs. The review indicates that because most SOMs have been developed for “flat agricultural lands” in temperate regions, to be useful in conservation planning in HTMEs models should be calibrated for local conditions. For humid tropical mountainous regions, lumped parameter models (LPMs) linked to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) are more practicable for conservation planning than sophisticated distributed parameter models (DPMs). This is due to the less stringent data requirements and ease to which land managers can implement LPMs, an essential consideration within the physical and socioeconomic context of HTMEs.

Keywords: Soil erosion models; Humid tropics, Mountainous environments; Conservation planning

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The benefits of liquid organic fertilizer

Dr.Sitti Nurani Sirajuddin
Kasmiyati Kasim
Ikrar Moh.Saleh

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to know the perception of livestock farmers on the use of liquid organic fertilizer from urine of cattle at Sinjai Regency, South Sulawesi Province. The choice of location for a farmer group manufactures and markets liquid organic fertilizer from cattle urine. This research was conducted in May to July 2013. The population were all livestock farmers who use organic liquid fertilizer from cattle urine samples while livestock farmers who are directly involved in the manufacture of liquid organic fertilizer totaled 42 people. Data were collected through observation and interview. Data were analyzed descriptively. The results showed that the perception of livestock farmers of using liquid organic fertilizer from cattle urine provide additional revenue benefits, cost minimization farming, reducing environmental pollution which not contrary to the customs

Keywords: liquid organic fertilizer, perceptions farmers

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Technology, Excretion and the Good Life

Reflecting upon the Ladakhi dry toilet system through the ontological lens of Martin Heidegger

Tanushree Biswas

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses an ontological crisis that emerges from the modern life which is inherently related to modern technology, with insights from Heidegger's ontology of technology and my observations in Ladakh. There are two central underlying assumptions in my approach:

“Technological” progress lies at the heart of earning the identity of being a developed country.

The way we relate to objects of knowledge, determines the nature of knowledge.

Heidegger shows that what qualifies as science and technology for the minority world today, has not always been the way it was conceived. The validity and truth of modern knowledge is held under profound suspicion because only that which can be measured, calculated, stored, called-upon and challenged to deliver comes into being in this world-view. This tendency pervades every aspect of our lifestyles including mundane acts such as excretion. It is through such mundane acts, that relations with existence as a whole are formed and maintained and progressive knowledge is possible; knowledge which makes sustainability and the good life possible.

Key Words: Technology, Excretion, Ladakhi, Heidegger's Ontology of Technology.

Tanushree Biswas is Doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Cultural Studies – Education Science University of Bayreuth, Germany.

She took a master degree in philosophy (2010, University of Pune) and an mphil degree in childhood studies (2013, Norwegian University of Science and Technology). She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Bayreuth. Her project is to explore the scope of doing philosophy with children. Her work can be seen as an effort towards using philosophical (phenomenology) tools in social sciences. Norway and Ladakh are part of her fieldwork studies. As leisure Biswas enjoys learning languages, conversations and experiencing artistic productions of various genres.

The Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Agriculture

Dr Beng Soo Ong

ABSTRACT

Hydraulic fracturing, often referred to as “fracking”, is a method of extracting oil and natural gas trapped in deep rock layers underground by pumping water, sand, and other chemicals/additives at high pressures into a well drilled vertically, and then horizontally into the rocks. Advocates of fracking in U.S. have skillfully positioned domestic natural gas as a sensible alternative energy to the country’s goals of reducing carbon emissions and dependence on foreign oil, while simultaneously creating jobs locally. Opponents to fracking, however, alleged that the process pollutes the air, contaminates the soil and water, particularly in farming/rural communities. Due to page limits on the paper, we discussed only the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water, and consequently, agriculture.

Any impact on agriculture extends beyond the perimeter of a farm or plot of rural land where fracking operations occur. Fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meats from an impacted farming region may be shipped to other parts of the country, or even internationally. Fracking challenges stakeholders to confront the trade-offs between economic development and public health/safety; thus multiple viewpoints and issues were raised.

Keywords: Hydraulic Fracking; Environmental Sustainability; Water Contamination; Agriculture vs. Energy; Shale Gas.

Dr Beng Soo Ong is Professor of Marketing at the Dept. of Marketing, Craig School of Business, California State University: Fresno, USA.

He has over 20 years of market research consulting experience, and has conducted branding, advertising, and behavioral research for a number of corporations, government agencies, advertising, and public relations firms, as well as worldwide top syndicated research suppliers. He has served as Senior Market Research Manager at InsightExpress, Analyst at AIS Market Research, and as Director of Arkansas Household Research Panel, and held Visiting positions at Microsoft Indonesia, Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, and NetApps Malaysia. Dr. Ong has researched, written, and presented topics on customer online reviews, social media, pricing & promotions, product/brand placements, and community sustainability. Ong’s current research explores e-learning, and marketing’s role in Environmental Sustainability. Dr. Ong was a key speaker at the 2010 Asian Bloggers & Social Media Conference in Malaysia, and is an invited keynote speaker at the 2014 International Conference on Teaching and Education Sciences in Hong Kong.

The LIFE Programme – Over 20 years promoting environmental sustainability in the EU

Carlos DE LA PAZ

[LIFE](#) is the EU's only dedicated funding instrument for the environment. The general objective of the programme is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environment policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value.

To date, LIFE has supported some [4 000](#) projects that have aimed to improve environmental performance in a wide range of sectors across Europe. The programme has developed innovative technologies and approaches to waste management, air quality, soil protection, water resources, energy sustainability and eco-innovation, among others.

LIFE has also made a significant contribution to all the environment-related themes to be tackled in the 2014 International Conference on Sustainable Development. The main aim of our participation would be to present some of the good practices developed by the LIFE programme during its 22 years of existence.

This would be done through the following:

- An oral presentation of some good results achieved by LIFE that are relevant to the conference.
- Display of one or more of our posters on the contribution of LIFE to different themes: [water](#); waste management ([1](#), [2](#)); and [energy sustainability](#).
- Distribution and display of copies of our [thematic brochures](#) and [thematic factsheets](#).

Keywords: Environment, European Union, funding tool

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Keeping Food Alive: Surplus Food Management

Sedef Sert

ABSTRACT

This paper is motivated by the paradoxical reality of food waste in a world of food insecurity, which is an important issue even for developed countries. Today, in Europe, nearly 43.6 million people are estimated to be food insecure, while European countries are reported to generate 179 kg per capita of food waste every year. Previous empirical studies highlight the potential of surplus food management, i.e. managerial processes and practices that strike a balance between social, environmental and economic goals and avoid safe food that is not sold or consumed degrade into waste. A multidisciplinary literature is reviewed in order to present the current state of art with a special attention on food redistribution for social purposes. In particular, I focus on differences between surplus food and food waste and discuss benefits and costs of surplus food redistribution to the disfavored population.

Key Words: food, waste, surplus, recovery, agriculture

SedefSert is a PhD candidate at Politecnico di Milano (Italy) in Department of Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering. She is currently involved in the "Foodsaving Project" supported by Fondazione Cariplo and Regione Lombardia. Her main research interest is sustainable supply chains and in particular surplus food management.

The role of information systems in medicine: The case of Albania

MSc. Hatixhe BILIBASHI

In the meantime, there has been a tremendous progress in medicine as well as in informatics. One important benefit of this progress is that our life expectancy is nowadays significantly higher than it would have been even some few decades ago. This progress, leading to aging societies, is of influence to the organization of health care and to the future development of its information systems.

The medical information technology field is a specialty field that prescribes software to treat and cure health care computer systems. The purpose of this issue is to offer a theory research that explores the role of information system in the delivery of healthcare in its diverse organizational and regulatory settings in Albania over the period 2008-2014. In addition to the embedded role of information system in clinical and diagnostic equipment, Information system are uniquely positioned to capture, stored, procedure, and communicate timely information to decision makers for better coordination of healthcare at both the individual and population levels. The medical system of Albania was offered the concept of the Virtual E-Hospital and this model was used to support, supplement, and guide a massive program development that involves essentially every physician and medical personnel in the region. Currently, the Telemedicine Center of Albania and Montal is providing information resources for medical education programs within the Albania medical system as well as regional consultations and collaboration. Furthermore, it is developing the human resources that will lead and implement telemedicine programs in this region and making serious strides in the redevelopment of medical systems using information technology.

Keywords: Information system, medicine, medical system

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EU and Ukraine Cooperation for Sustainable Environment: Historical and Legal Aspects

Rinata Kazak

ABSTRACT

The article discusses various aspects of the legal maintaining of environmental sustainability. Ukraine as one of the largest countries in Europe with more, than 40 million population causes a huge effect on the environmental situation in Europe. Through the historical research the author highlights the 60 - 70th of the XX century as an active period of international cooperation between the EU and Ukraine. The evidence of this activity was the complex Soviet Ukraine Act on nature protection 1960 and Government Committee for Nature Protection established in 1968 with competence of cooperation with European Community environmental authorities. Within a few years, many countries filled the gap and made a great step towards sustainable development, declared by the Stockholm Conference (1972) and First Environmental Action Programme in Europe (1973). The author draws the parallel between the Ukrainian and EU legal bases. Modern Ukraine tends to the association with the EU, so this research of a big importance has theoretical and practical value for Ukraine.

Keywords: EU and Ukraine cooperation, environmental sustainability, historical and legal aspects.

Rinata Kazak is an intern-researcher of the Department of History of State and Law of Ukraine and foreign countries of the Yaroslav the Wise National Law University (Ukraine). In 2011 she got the BA degree in Law, in 2012 - MA degree in Law. Currently she is a PhD student, and writes her thesis. Her scientific interests fall within the scope of the historical researches of different legal acts (especially in the field of environmental law). The topic of her thesis is «The legal biodiversity protection in Ukraine and the EU in the second half of the XX - beginning of the XXI centuries».

Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of marine debris in coastal Nigeria

Chibuzo Okoye Daniels, Gillian Glegg, Lynda Rodwell,

Abstract

Marine debris from fishing nets to medical equipment to food packaging that play major roles in boosting the economy and protecting human health is now more than an environmental problem that can be solved by legislation, law enforcement and technical solutions. It has also been identified as a cultural problem that can only be addressed by identifying instruments that can be used to change human attitudes and behaviours. This may be through management approaches, education and involvement of all sectors/interests, including the public.

To contribute to the sustainable development of coastal Nigeria, two case study areas (Ikoyi and Victoria Islands of Lagos State) were used to evaluate the socio-economic impacts of marine debris problem in coastal Nigeria with monetary value assigned to these impacts so as to determine the cost implication of marine debris in the study areas.

The following methods were used: (1) Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders and businesses on beaches, waterfronts and waterways within the study areas and (2) Observational study of beaches, waterfronts and waterways within the study areas.

The results of the study have shown that marine debris is a cultural and multi-sectoral problem that poses great threat not only to the environmental sustainability of the study areas but to the wellbeing of its citizens and the economy of coastal Nigeria. The research study has identified several socio-economic impacts of marine debris problem in Lagos State and has assigned monetary values to the cleanup costs for beaches, shorelines, drains and canals within the study areas (Ikoyi and Victoria Islands of Lagos State) based on the data obtained from the semi-structured interviews with the Government Agencies responsible for ensuring adequate waste and marine debris management in Lagos State. Current solid waste and marine debris management practices are currently inefficient due to inadequate knowledge on how to tackle the problem.

To ensure environmental sustainability in coastal Nigeria and avoid waste of scarce financial and material resources adequate, appropriate and cost effective solutions to the marine debris problem need to be identified and effectively transferred for implementation in the study areas.

Keywords: *Coastal Nigeria, Environmental Sustainability, Marine Debris, Socio-economic impacts*

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Assessment of the root causes of marine debris problem in Lagos State

Chibuzo Okoye Daniels, Gillian Glegg, Lynda Rodwell

Abstract

The continuously growing quantity of very slow degrading litter deliberately discarded into the coastal waters around Lagos as marine debris is obvious, what is not known is how to tackle this problem to reduce its prevalence and impact on the environment, economy and community. To identify ways of tackling the marine debris problem two case study areas (Ikoyi and Victoria Islands of Lagos State) were used to assess the root causes, the threat posed by marine debris in the coastal waters around Lagos and the efficacy of current instruments, programmes and initiatives that address marine debris in the study areas.

The following methods were used: (1) Self-completed questionnaires for households and businesses within the study areas; (2) Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders; (3) Observational studies of waste management from collection to disposal and waste management facilities for waste originating from land and maritime sources; (4) Beach surveys and marine debris surveys on shorelines and ports and (5) Fishing for marine debris.

Results of this study identified the following root causes: (1) Indiscriminate human activities and behaviors, and lack of awareness on the part of the main stakeholders and the public of the potential consequences of their actions; (2) Poor solid waste management practices; (3) Lack of strict legal frameworks addressing waste and marine debris problem and (4) Disposal of non-degradable wastes into domestic sewer system and open streets drains.

To effectively tackle marine debris problem in the study areas, adequate, appropriate and cost effective solutions to the above mentioned root causes needs to be identified and effectively transferred for implementation in the study areas.

Keywords: *Lagos State, Marine Debris, Root causes, Case study areas*

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Environmental Education and Sustainable Development in Italy

Sokol Pacukaj

ABSTRACT

Environmental Education is a key tool for raising awareness on a greater responsibility towards environmental problems. Environmental Education should promote changes in individual and collective behavior. For effective achievement of educational objectives, it is essential to develop activities in direct contact with the environment.

Environmental Education has evolved over time, from an initial approach mainly focused on the protection of nature; it has gone to greater attention to pollution, environmental emergencies and the social and economic dynamics, to get to the broader concept of Education for the Sustainable Development.

The Education for Sustainable Development is not only about the environment but also the economy (consumption, poverty, north and south of the world) and society (rights, peace, health, cultural diversity).

This article aims to list and explain the environmental policies in Italy in the last 25 years. Will be examined the policies undertaken by the government, and especially the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education, and the policies undertaken by the various environmental organizations and civil society.

Italy can boast a large number of documents on environmental education already expressed in Circular 149/1996 (La Ferla) of the Ministry of Education, where he proposed environmental education "as a link between nature and culture", and the Charter of the principles of Fiuggi 1997, a document signed by the Minister of Education and Minister of the Environment, in which they expressed the characteristics of environmental education towards sustainable development.

Keywords: Education, Sustainable Development, environment, society,

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Sustainable Campus: Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Performance Measurement for Malaysian Public Universities

Wan Zahari Wan Yusoff, PhD, Muhammad Azwan Sulaiman

ABSTRACT

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) for academic buildings is one of the key characteristics of a sustainable campus. The low conditions of IEQ performance can contribute to the sick building syndrome and cause discomfort to the building users. Furthermore, good performance of IEQ can contribute to a comfort and conducive learning and working environment. The purpose of this paper is to discuss on the IEQ performance measurement of academic buildings for public universities in Malaysia. This research involved scientific measurement of academic buildings for public universities in Malaysia. The performance measurement focuses on the six key elements of IEQ; thermal comfort, humidity, noise comfort, air movement, lighting and thickness of CO₂. The results were compared to the Malaysian Standard (MS 1525:2007) and UNESCO guideline. The findings showed that most universities are in the standard set, while some universities under the standards set and still in need of improvement. This study is useful for facilities managers in public universities in order to improve the IEQ on academic buildings in achieving sustainable campus.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Sustainable environment, Sustainable campus, Indoor Environmental Quality, Malaysian public universities.

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He has extensive experience in various sectors, including academic and non-academic and in both government and private sector. Among other positions that he had held previously are such as Visiting Fellow at Queensland University (2013), Deputy Director of Facilities and Property Management at UTHM (2009 -2012), Head of Research Centre, Centre of Excellence for Facilities Management, UTHM (2010 - 2012), Head of the Department of Construction & Real Estate Management, UTHM (2008-2010), Research Officer at the National Institute of Valuation (INSPEN, 2000-2003), Valuation Officer at Valuation and Property Services Department, Ministry of Finance, Malaysia (1997-2000), Assistant Valuation Officer (1993 - 1997), Staff on Takaful (M) Sdn. Bhd. (1988-1992) and Assistant Valuer at Property Consultant Company i.e. Azami & Rahim & Co. (1986-1987).

Muhammad Azwan Sulaiman is a PhD Research Student at the Real Estate Department, University Tun Hussein Onn Msia, Malaysia.

Using the Green Infrastructure as an Economic Sustainable Tool for Improving Urban Life in Emerging Countries Urban Poverty Areas Greater Cairo Case Study

Ahmed Khaled Ahmed Elewa

ABSTRACT:

Through the last decades rapid urbanization in the emerging countries was producing bad urban quality. This urbanization of poverty is responsible of the phenomenon of the current spreading of slums in those countries main cities, Yet the common urban solutions for improving the urban life in those areas always require a high-cost budget which usually surpassing the financial ability of the local governments. The study main objective is to evaluate the possibility of using the Green Infrastructure as an economic sustainable tool for improving the urban life in urban poverty areas of emerging countries. An analytical study was done based on the case of Greater Cairo city informal areas as urban poverty areas.

The study has clarified how the elements of the Green Infrastructure could be used as an effective economic and sustainable tool through its environmental, urban, and social roles, for the improvement of urban poverty areas in the emerging countries main cities, Also has shown that the Green Infrastructure depends on available local natural elements, local experts experience and the most important. Its affordable cost, which make it an effective economic tool.

Key Words: Green Infrastructure, Economic Sustainability, Emerging Countries.

Dr. Ahmed Khaled Ahmed Elewa, is Assistant Professor of Town planning and Architecture design, Architecture Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt. I'm interested in the city urban spatial structure changes related to the globalization impact, especially the changes related to the economic reasons, Also the developing and emerging countries urban area's problems, its negative impact on the environment, and how to improve the urban life in those areas through the applied of sustainable urban solutions, Therefore my research were concerned global issues related to local human settlements in general, Greater Cairo was the main case study in most of my research. During the last two years after I was awarded my PhD degree, I have participated in 7 conferences with my research in Germany, Netherlands, Turkey, Serbia, Albania and Egypt.

An investigation into sustainable construction stimulators and blockers

By M. Osmani

ABSTRACT

The UK Government has been using a combination of regulation, economic instruments and voluntary agreements to meet targets of ethical, social and environmental performance in driving the climate change agenda. The UK is the first country worldwide to set a legally binding 80% greenhouse-gas emissions reduction target by 2050. The built environment in the UK is responsible for about 40% of carbon emissions, 32% of solid waste generation, 20% of water effluents, and 40% of all energy used. As such, the construction industry has been targeted to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy. Indeed, sustainability within the built environment has become the forefront of all sustainable development policies in the UK. However; various studies have outlined the difficulty of translating the UK's 80% greenhouse-gas emissions reduction target to a micro level such as construction projects. This research engaged the top 100 UK contractors to investigate stimulators that drive the implementation of sustainability in their projects, and assess associated blockers.

Findings reveal that sustainability requirements driven by financial and business were viewed by participating contractors as being the key motivators in construction projects. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was viewed as a vehicle to improve social and environmental dynamics of sustainability through local community support initiatives, which in turn has increased companies' opportunities to secure new projects, particularly from public clients. On the other hand, respondents called for clearer and inclusive legislation; increased awareness; enhanced communication and coordination among project stakeholders; and widespread sharing and dissemination of sustainable construction best practice data.

Keywords: UK; contractors; sustainable construction; stimulators; blockers.

Assoc/Prof. Mohamed Osmani is the Director of the Architectural Engineering and Design Management Programme at the School of Civil and Building Engineering, Loughborough University. He has more than 10 years industrial experience and over 18 years as an academic and research supervisor. He teaches on undergraduate programmes and post-graduate courses in the areas of architecture, sustainable building design; resource efficiency; and the impact of innovation, modelling, virtual prototyping and simulation on sustainable project performance. He is currently supervising a range of doctoral studies, and funded research projects covering waste management; energy efficiency; low carbon building retrofit; use of BIM to enhance collaborative sustainable practices; and sustainable project performance improvement through innovation. Osmani has developed a significant portfolio of funded research projects, winning more than £2 million bids from a range of funding bodies as a principal investigator; and over £1 million as a co-investigator in the field of resource efficiency and waste management. He has published over 100 academic papers and technical reports in the field of sustainable design and construction, resource efficiency and waste management.

Corporate Social Responsibility through Voluntary Commitment in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises – the Case of the ‘Heilbronn Declaration’

Prof. Dr. Christopher Stehr & Benjamin E. Jakob, MBA

ABSTRACT

Corporate Social Responsibility has grown popular among discussions in economics and societies worldwide. To a growing extent customers make their buying decisions under CSR aspects. Enterprises try to follow up with CSR strategies. But often a gap has to be detected between the theoretical approach of CSR and practical implementations within the entrepreneurial reality. This article introduces a possible approach of closing the gap within CSR implementation.

The ‘Heilbronn Declaration’ is a voluntary agreement of enterprises and institutions in Germany especially of the Heilbronn-Franconia region. The approach of the ‘Heilbronn Declaration’ targets the decisive factors of success or failure, the achievements of the implementation and best practices regarding CSR. A form of responsible entrepreneurship shall be initiated to meet the requirements of stakeholders’ trust in economy. Therefore it has been elaborated by academics together with enterprises and their shareholders. It is an approach to make voluntary commitment more binding. Its scientific base may allow development of indicators for CSR implementation in business ventures and institutions to finalize in a CSR audit. The innovative approach of the ‘Heilbronn Declaration’ is the integration of the prospective signatories into discussion on the idea and purpose of business from the very first beginning.

Keywords: sustainability, corporate social responsibility, innovation, voluntary commitment, authentic CSR, small and medium sized enterprises (SME)

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Exploring the Uniqueness in the Approach of Medium-Sized Companies to CSR.

Shan Chen PhD candidate, Assistant Professor Lucio Lamberti

Current research on firms' approaches to CSR is mostly based on multinational corporations and small/micro enterprises, while the medium-sized enterprises (MEs) have received much less attention and are usually considered together as SMEs; preliminary evidence suggests that MEs are in transition from small to large enterprises and thus possess traits different from both large and small enterprises.

Our study aims at providing further theoretical interpretation of the uniqueness of MEs' approach to CSR. A multiple case study is conducted with seven Italian MEs. The results show that although MEs still share some common characteristics with small enterprises such as high coincidence between ownership and management, they display characteristics distinctive from small enterprises as well, such as higher level of formalization in CSR practices, higher bargaining power in the supply chain and thus more voluntary and proactive approach to CSR.

In conclusion, our study supports and further elaborates the idea of MEs being different from small enterprises, and based on the results proposes some factors further to firm size as predictors of CSR approach for future research.

Keywords: SME, CSR

Shan Chen is a final year PhD candidate at Politecnico di Milano, where she also had her Master's Degree in Management. Her current main research field is in Marketing; specifically she has research activities involving subjects of multichannel marketing, customer experience, and customer behavior. Her dissertation is about the multichannel strategy adopted by Italian companies oriented at creating superior customer experience. Meanwhile, she is involved in several cross-disciplinary research activities with, for example, Supply Chain Management, on the subject of Corporate Social Responsibility. Her works in both Marketing and Corporate Social Responsibility have been published in (and in review with) internationally reputable journals and presented in several international prestigious conferences (e.g. EMAC, EurOMA).

Lucio Lamberti is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering, Politecnico di Milano, Italy.

Economic sustainability of Farms in Poland

Wioletta Wrzaszcz, PhD; Professor Józef St. Zegar, PhD

ABSTRACT

Measuring the level of agriculture sustainability is very complex. Different proposals are presented and discussed, and still, there is no generally accepted measures of the sustainability of agriculture. This problem also concerns economic sustainability of agriculture. Sustainability of agricultural holdings determines the sustainability of agriculture, although these notions are not identical.

The Agricultural Censuses that are carried out in all the European Union countries are based on a uniform methodology. The Agricultural Census data can be used to measure the sustainability of agricultural holdings, including economic sustainability - in individual countries and for comparative analysis between them. This, without doubts, is a great advantage of this database. However, a limited scope of collected data is their weakness.

The purpose of the article is to present proposals for measuring the economic sustainability of agricultural holdings in Poland on the basis of Agricultural Census data, 2010. This article sets the following indicators of the economic sustainability: land productivity, labour profitability, farms market activity and sources of households' income and maintenance. The analysis concerns individual agricultural holdings with at least 1 ha of agricultural land and it is also carried out in the area groups.

Key Words: agriculture, environmentally sustainable farm, income.

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Professor Józef Zegar is Head of General Economic Department. The Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute(IAFE-NRI) Poland is co-author of the socially sustainable agriculture concept. His recent works are concerned with theoretical aspects of sustainability and criteria of sustainability assessment. He has excessive knowledge of the farm data sources and as a Member of The Committee on Planning Central Statistical Office Activities provides recommendation of agriculture data collection system improvement.

Cooperative Microfinance in Agriculture

Analyzing the Outreach and Financial Sustainability of Albanian Savings & Credit Union

Jonida Bou Dib (Lekocaj), Julian Lekocaj, Gert van Dijk

ABSTRACT

Our research aimed in analyzing the outreach and financial sustainability of Albanian Savings & Credit Union. It was based on a descriptive study and on quantitative data that was collected through interviews, direct observations and different annual financial statements.

Concerning the outreach, our study found out that the number of active clients increased from 7,621 active clients in 2003 to 15,499 active clients in 2012. The average loan size showed a growth for the period 2003-2008 by reaching the amount of \$US 2,509, then it decreased at \$US 2,207 in 2010 and raised at \$US 2,314 in 2012. From the other hand, the Operating Expense Ratio has shown instability such as from 9.62% in 2002 it dropped to 8.62% in 2007 to fell off to 7.58% in 2009 and raised again in 2010 by 8.20%, while the cost per loan increased by making the ASC Union inefficient.

Moreover, the dependency ratio reduced from 89% in 2005 to 26.8% in 2012 while retained earnings to total capital ratio went up to 9.2% in 2008, but then it reduced to 6% in 2012. Similarly to the dependency ratio, the donated capital has also shown reduction over the years from 45% in 2005 to 9.2% in 2012, allowing the ASC Union to be financially self-sufficient.

Key words: Microfinance, Microcredit, Outreach, Financial Sustainability, Credit Union, Albania

Jonida Bou Dib (Lekocaj) is Lecturer at the Economy and Rural Development Department, Agricultural University of Tirana. Albania. She studied Agribusiness and Farm Management at the Economics and Agribusiness Faculty in the Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania). Alongside her masters' studies, she had the opportunity to work in Credins Bank as a Payment Specialist at the Operational Department, wherein she gained an experience in work ethics and banking services, and developed strong self confidence that allows her to succeed in a competitive environment. Being among the top two students of the University, gave her the chance that in October 2009 to follow another Master of Science degree in Business Economics and Management in the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh), Greece, wherein she had successfully achieved high academic standing, ranked among the top five students as well as nominated for "The Best Thesis 2011" by CIHEAM in Paris and won 3rd place. #

M.Sc. Julian Lekocaj is a Data Entry Manager & Finance Officer /PhD Candidate at the Accounting Department GFI Albania Ltd / Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania.

Gert van Dijk is a Professor of Cooperative Business Administration and Management at Nyenrode Business Universiteit, The Netherlands, and became Director General of the National Council of Cooperatives in 1990. In this position he is actively involved with national and international agribusinesses and companies, as well as, financial, governmental and non-governmental organizations. His research focuses on cooperative structures and the agribusiness sector.

Czech method of IDEA

Tool for sustainable development for farmers

Marta Mrnušík Konečná

ABSTRACT

The Conference theme call to create a unified foundation for the Sustainable Development that should emphasize the strong foundation for research to inform our everyday practices, policies, and analytical approaches. Sustainable development is not just some particular state of the world but it is every day change process following sustainable principles leading to the consumption of the goods in the renewable way. It requests to know these principles, and time by time check whether we are still going in the range of sustainable development or we step down from the way.

In case we would like to enhance sustainable farmers, we should prepare the guide line according which they could try to target.

This paper aimed to introduce Czech method IDEA based on French method IDEA. French method IDEA is used by the French farmer to self-assessment of sustainable principles. Main modifications were made due to unavailability of the data (resp. database) and according to Czech differences in agricultural sector.

Finally the using of the method is demonstrated on group of Czech farms. The data were collected mainly by the questionnaires in the Internal Research Project of the Czech Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information in 2012.

Key words: sustainable development – agriculture – assessment of sustainability

Marta Mrnušík Konečná is Junior researcher at the Department of environmental policy, Institut of Agricultural Economics and Information, Brno, Czech Republic. Her main background is in economics of regional policy and European integration focusing mainly on agro-environmental policy in Czech Republic. Personal research is focused on role of the farmers in the society mainly relating to sustainable development.

Inequality, Skills Formation and Economic Growth. Wage effects of overschooling in the Greek context: A Granger Causality Analysis.

PH.D. Candidate Sophia Kassapi

There is growing evidence in support of education as a major determinant of economic growth. But, the literature at hand suggests that the phenomenon of “adverse causality” might as well be present.

This paper examines the case of Greek economy, for the period 1960-2011. It shows a positive long-run relationship between enrollments at primary, secondary and tertiary level and GDP per capita.

This study uses secondary data which have been collected from the Greek Statistics of Education (various volumes). We follow a methodology of three steps, performing stationarity tests for all the variables involved. We proceed with integration, taking the first-differences for the non-stationary ones. Second, we run cointegration tests in order to see if there is any sign of a long-run relationship. Third, we run Linear Granger causality tests to detect the causality and the causal direction among our variables.

A unidirectional causal relationship, running from all educational variables to GDP growth is present. The main problem is with students pursuing further with their studies, where economic growth “imposes” higher education on them, detecting a bi-directional, causal relationship.

Keywords: Financial sustainability, Education, Economic growth & development.

Sophia A. Kassapi is a Ph.D. Candidate from the University of Patras, Department of Business Administration, Greece. Her area of interest is Economics of Education, i.e. sustainable investments in education towards economic growth and development. Her previous works at Stockholm University, Sweden were on Educational Reform, Privatization of Education, International and Comparative Education, SES and Community Attitudes towards Schooling, e.t.c. both quantitative and qualitative.

Basic Variables of Economic and Social Development in Balkan Region

(Regional Development -Industrialisation-Humanpower)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fazil Yozgat¹

ABSTRACT

In this study, three subjects had been investigated. Firstly history of industry Balkan region, secondly basic variables economic and social development, thirdly relation to variables. Industry is basic element of development. In addition to in this paper theoretical and literal concept has been investigated.

In this study is aimed at presenting the most important new trends of economic, social, political and institutional development of Balkan region with relation to four major factors shaping the regions countries. Industrial Revolution in Europe and made major investments in the first half of the 19th century particularly central Europe and Balkan region. Balkan regions represent complex and diverse reality. These regions are from Old Continent to Central Europe, South East Europe and Mediterranean. From Adriatic to Black Sea and Mediterranean also. In these regions there are some different economic, social and political events. I.e. Croatia moves to final round member of European Union some countries face to particular problems of political subjects.

I offer framework analysis of the regional country by country based on the existing set of criteria, which are variables of social and economic development. Those variables are including (cluster industry, expenditure R&D od GDP, variations of capitals, population and market, some trade block which are impact of economic and social development)

Proposed key pillars to support sustainable competitiveness in the Western Balkans. Sustaining competitiveness =Human capital development==Regional Cluster==Sector Policy reforms.(OECD,2008)

Key words. Balkan region, Social development, Globalisation, Sustainable development

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Fazil Yozgat is professor at the Faculty of Economic and Administration Sciences, Cumhuriyet University, Turkey. Graduated from Ankara university, Faculty of Education Sciences, and Anadolu University, Faculty of Economics. He completed master thesis Gazi University, and PhD at Istanbul university.

He had been as visitor lecturer in Manchester University. I attended some international conferences i.e. France-Germany-Holland and Egypt. I have been studying as head of vocational High school .

Electronic Commerce as a Sustainable Business

Mohammad Reza Nemat Gorgani

ABSTRACT

Environment, societies, and economy are the scope of sustainability in each community. Electronic commerce (e-commerce) is rapidly developing due to its potential as a green business, democratic partnership and economic opportunity. Iran to date has grappled with a significant decline in economic activity across multiple economic sectors, lasting more than a few months (years?), normally apparent in real gross domestic product (GDP), real income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales. In this context, this study's main objective is to demonstrate that e-commerce could be a powerful factor in creating a sustainable future for Iran. Defining Environmental economics and Innovation, competitiveness and eco-efficiency factors by the Delphi method and the Europe 2020 strategy in the National Sustainable Development Committee of Iran, these elements have been evaluated using the Decision Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory (DEMATEL) technique with regards to Iran's condition. Finally, the study results support the view that although Sustainable Economic and Innovation, competitiveness and eco-efficiency can be impacted by e-commerce in Iran, it stands to have the greatest impact on environmental economics. In addition the adoption of e-commerce would be both operationally and strategically viable for Iran's society.

Keywords: Socio-Economic Development, Green economics, Economic Sustainability

Mohammad Reza Nemat Gorgani is a Master of Business Administration from International campus University of Tehran. He is working as a Brand Manager in a Distributing and marketing company.

Research Activities:

2012-2013 thesis project to investigate on the impact of electronic commerce on sustainable development of Iran based on the Europe 2020 strategy; in this research he proposed e-business as an indicator of sustainable development model.

2013-2014 investigates on the role of e-commerce on sustainable development and energy consumption of transportation.

Networks and cooperation for sustainable development

The role of local authorities and clusters in regional development and economic growth

Anna Mempel-Śnieżyk, PhD

ABSTRACT

An important role of modern economy is to create a well-functioning system of connections and supporting relations between local actors (entrepreneurs, business environment institutions, R&D area and local authorities). *Present economy emphasizes various levels of cooperation: global, regional, national and local, at the same time indicating that local activity is essential for reaching the Millennium Development Goals.* It should be underlined that they expire in 2015, and in the next year new goals will be proposed: Sustainable Development Goals. *Bearing in mind the above*, the aim of the article is to present the role of local authorities and network cooperation in achieving economic growth and sustainable development *of the modern world*. The paper presents new trends in regional policy undertaken by the EU: cooperation at the local level and how to identify regions' domains using cluster. In order to achieve this aim, the author used the qualitative methods, which allowed to broaden the knowledge concerning the examined phenomenon, the literature study of available literature, reports in the area of knowledge systematization and definitions related to clusters, regional development and the significance of local authorities.

Key words: importance of local authorities, clusters, economic growth, sustainable development

Anna Mempel-Śnieżyk is Assistant professor Faculty of Economic Science/ Department of Spatial Economy and Local government Administration at the Wrocław University of Economics, Poland. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics (2010) from the Wrocław University of Economics in Poland. From the beginning she worked at the Department of Spatial Economy and Local government Administration; Wrocław University of Economics.

Her dissertation was related to identification the interrelations between local actors, (local authorities, entrepreneurs, R&D and business supporting institutions).

Her research interests include local and regional development: spatial structures of networks (clusters, territorial system of production, industrial districts), the meaning the SMEs for the present economy, its power, flexibility, innovativeness

Furthermore, she is interested in studying contemporary sustainable development and its determinants and challenges.

She is the author of several articles on local development and network structures issues. She also participated in Life Long Learning Programme - ERASMUS For Teaching Staff Mobility, and took part in scholarship in Óbuda University, Keleti Faculty of Business and Management, Budapest, Hungary.

Member of International Academic Network „Human Potential Development in Central and Eastern EU States“ (HPD CEEUS),

Recovering from the Effects of Natural Disaster: *The Case of Urban Cagayan de Oro, Philippines*

Isaias S Sealza and Lita P Sealza

ABSTRACT

Tropical Storm Washi hit urban Cagayan de Oro, the Philippines, in 2011. It left some 2000 people dead or missing. Thousands of survivor households had to be resettled. Local and international relief groups put up housing structures, health and sanitation facilities, and livelihood opportunities.

This paper posits that the survivor households have recovered their level of living given the inputs from outside groups, and despite cohesion and ethnicity issues commonly attendant to new neighborhoods.

This paper uses data from a survey of 674 respondents in resettlement and village communities. Data show that while the two communities have similar ethnic diversity, the village community shows a statistically significant advantage over the resettlement community in level of living, which suggests that the latter has not recovered yet from the devastation. Cohesion is facilitated by social organizations. Members of social organizations have higher level of living than non-members. And when organizational membership is controlled for, the advantage of the village community in level of living disappears.

It is argued therefore that more efforts from the resettlement communities with support from the local government units, civil society organizations, and humanitarian groups are needed to improve the survivors' living conditions via enhanced campaigns for membership in social organizations.

Key Words: Natural Disaster, Cagayan de Oro, Level of Living

Isaias S Sealza is Director of the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, Xavier University. He has doctorate degrees in Sociology, and in Planning and Management. He has been directing research on population, poverty, environment, peace, and, health, commissioned by national and international agencies for over 30 years now. He has authored/co-authored, research reports, journal articles, and conference papers including *Community Modernization, In-Migration, and Ethnic Diversification* (Philippine Sociological Review, 1982), *Cassava Industry in Bukidnon Province* (Philippine Studies, 1986); *Mindanao Il Conflitto dei Poveri i movimenti d'ispirazione islamica nelle Filippine: trend attuali e reali prospettive di pace con i cristiani* (Revista di Intelligence, 2006); *Women Empowerment Through Learning and Livelihood Project* (Singh, Gonzalez and Thomson, Eds. Millennium Development Goals and Community Initiatives in the Asia Pacific. New Delhi: Springer, 2013); and, *Environmental Legislation and Action in Polity, Economy and Culture for Climate Change Adaptation* (Ha, and Dhakal, Eds. Governance Approaches for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in Asia. Singapore: Palgrave-MacMillan, 2013).

Ms Lita P Sealza is Senior Research Associate Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, Xavier University Philippines. Asocial researcher since 1973. She has conducted research studies funded by local, national and international funding organizations on topics like child labor, population, upland resource conservation and management, environment, reproductive health and family planning, poverty, and gender and sexuality. She has had intensive training on operations research.

Economic Growth And Carbon Emission: A Dynamic Panel Data Analysis

Ibrahim BAKIRTAS¹, Seyhat BAYRAK², Atalay CETIN³

ABSTRACT

The relationship between carbon dioxide emission (CO₂) and economic growth is one of the crucial topics in environmental economics. This study is aimed to investigate that problem. In this study, depending on the theory of Environmental Kuznets Curves (EKC), the impact of income in carbon dioxide emission has measured for 34 OECD and 5 BRICS countries with using Dynamic Panel Data Analysis. In this regard OECD countries are classified by income groups due to the average per capita income rate of OECD to solve the homogeneity problem among OECD countries. On the other hand EKC hypothesis analysed by short and long run income elasticity which will be using for an evident that a country reduces CO₂ emissions with the income increase in this study. According to the findings of the study, % 36 of the country sample coherent with the EKC hypothesis. The main encouragement for testing this relationship between economic growth and CO₂ emission is leading politicians to reconsider the environmental impacts which are arising from income increase when they are taking a decision to maximizes the economic growth.

Keywords: EKC; OECD; Dynamic Panel Data

Professor Ibrahim BAKIRTAS is working at the department of economics in Aksaray University at Turkey. He is also the head of the department. Political Economy, Environmental Economics, Energy and Economy are his special interests.

MSc.Seyhat BAYRAK is a Research Asisstant at the Department of Econometrics, Dumlupınar University TURKEY, she is working as a research asisstant in Dumlupınar University at Turkey. She has finished the master program in 2011/2012. The topic of the master thesis is 'Investigation of Anxiety towards Statistics Course with Structural Equation Modeling'. Still doing Phd at Uludag University. The subjects such as Panel Data Analysis, Time Series Analysis, Renewable and Sustainable Energy are her special interests.

MSc.Mumin Atalay CETIN, is working as a research asisstant in Aksaray University at Turkey. Graduated master program in 2011/2012. Master thesis about 'Efficiency Wages Model of the Labour Market'. He is still doing his Phd at Aksaray University. The subjects such as Sustainable Economic Development, Energy Economics, Renewable and Sustainable Energy and Ecological Economics are his special interests

How do Lending Relationship Affect to Credit Accessibility in Cattle Farm in Indonesia?

Aslina Asnawi, Sitti Nurani Sirajuddin, Veronica Sri Lestari

ABSTRACT

Financing aspect is one of the barriers still faced by the majority of beef cattle farmers in Indonesia. Today quite a lot of financing for both beef cattle breeding business sourced from banks or aid from the government. However, the accessibility level of funding is still relatively low. This study examines how the lending relationship between the farmers and the lenders affect to the funding accessibility for farmers. The intensity and duration of visits relationship between borrowers and lenders are the indicator of the level of relationship. The more closely the relationship will be higher levels of accessibility that demonstrated by the existence of credit support ever obtained by the breeders.

Key words: access to credit, cattle farm, lending relationship

Dr. Aslina Asnawi is Lecturer at the Socio Economic Study Department, Faculty of Animal Science, Indonesia. She had been a lecturer since Desember 2001. Graduated from bachelor degree in 1998, her master degree was on financial management in 2001 and her doctoral study in 2013. She is interested in financial mangement in Micro, Small, and Medium Size Enterprises especially in Veterinary sector.

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She has been a lecturer at Faculty of Animal Science since 2011. Before coming to Makassar, South Sulawesi, she worked at Animal Husbandry Service in Jakarta Municipality for 16 years. After she got scholarship from AIDAB and got the Master degree (1995) from the University of New England - Armidale - New South Wales - Australia, she moved to Makassar to follow her husband who is also a lecturer at the same university. Interested in socio- economic studies.

The Economic Returns of Network Resources to the Urban Informal Economy: Evidence from Street Vendors in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Getahun Fenta Kebede and Francesca Odella

ABSTRACT

It is widely recognized that social capital constitutes an important form of social regulation in informal sector and it is the major component of the asset portfolios of the urban poor. Nevertheless, the potential contribution of social capital in the informal sector remains under-investigated in African cities. Applying the network approach, this study examined the economic returns of social capital to microenterprises in the informal sector. To do so, the personal networks of street vendors in Addis Ababa were examined. Multi-stage sampling procedures involving purposive and systematic random-walk techniques were applied to draw samples. Data were collected through position generator surveys. The data were analyzed using OLS and Instrumental Variable Estimators. By controlling the potential endogeneity, the estimation results revealed that network resources are positive and significant predictors of enterprise profit. But their benefit is less for married vendors than unmarried ones. The human capital measures such as education, vocational training, and business experience are not significant predictors of enterprise profit.

Key Words: Social Capital, Social Networks, Informal Sector, Ethiopia, Addis Ababa

Getahun Fenta Kebede is a PhD candidate in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Trento, Italy. He has a Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development at the University of Trento (Italy) and University of Regensburg (Germany). He has also Masters in Development Studies at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He has worked as a lecturer at Addis Ababa University for five years. He taught many development courses and produced a couple of research outputs. His doctoral thesis focuses on social capital and the urban informal economy in Ethiopia. The thesis specifically examines the role played by social capital in building the livelihood of the poor in the informal sector focusing on gender and ethnic background of street entrepreneurs. It also investigates the influence of social capital on enterprise performance and network dynamics following phases of entrepreneurship. His research interests include rural-urban migration, urban poverty, vulnerability and exclusion, social capital, and social network analysis.

Francesca Odella is Assistant Professor of Social Research Methods, Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento, Italy.

Is Economic Recovery Through Exceptional Monetary Policy Sustainable?

Dr. Jon Bryan

Central banks responded quickly to the financial crisis of 2008-2009. The most aggressive response came from the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), with interest rates rapidly falling to zero. As the crisis deepened, and when conventional monetary instruments were deemed inadequate to stem the economic decline, the Fed embarked upon a series of asset purchases known as quantitative easing. The asset purchases and dramatic increase in the Fed's balance sheet were highly unusual. However, with fiscal action constrained in an increasingly-partisan Congress, the financial markets celebrated the Fed's easing with record gains.

With the passage of time, it's clear that the Fed's aggressive easing has not achieved many of its goals. The job market remains weak and wage gains for workers paltry. Interest rates for savers are near zero, causing immense pain for retirees. Imbalances in the economy are myriad, with fears of another financial bubble and damaging downturn. The Fed will have few policy tools left to counter such an event.

This research is important in that it investigates the widely-accepted thesis that exceptional monetary policy accommodation, especially quantitative easing, is beneficial to economic recovery. It concludes that its long-term risks pose a threat to the global economy.

Keywords: Monetary policy, recovery, stimulus

Dr. Jon Bryan has been a professor in the College of Business, Bridgewater State University, MA, USA for more than two decades. His areas of interest are global business, management strategy, small business, and employment. He has presented his research at numerous international conferences. In his leisure time, he enjoys gardening, jogging, and language study.

Development of Smart and Sustainable Economy in the European Union

NikiDerlukiewicz, PhD

ABSTRACT

Innovations are very important in the development of the modern economy and are the major factor in proving the competitiveness of enterprises, as well as national and regional economies. Although the EU market is the one of the largest in the world, it is not sufficiently innovation-friendly. Currently Europe is facing many challenges associated for example with exhaustible natural resources, climate change, an aging population and increasing competition from the United States. Europe needs more investment in research and development to support the competitiveness of its industry and to improve its research and innovation system. Public and private investments in R&D are crucial to enable Europe to take advantage of any rebound in the economy.

One of the European solutions to deal with these problems, is the new strategy dedicated to help socio-economic development of the European Union - Europe 2020. The new strategy for Europe 2020 emphasizes the need for member states to undertake joint action, which would help to overcome the crisis and implement reforms enabling them to face and deal with different problems. In order to achieve the above objectives some fundamental priorities were included in the strategy, i.e: smart and sustainable growth.

The aim of this article is to present general guidelines for the development of smart and sustainable economy in the European Union in the context of current policy, strategic documents as well as activities and projects.

Key words: smart, sustainable, development, strategy

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Actively Managed Investment Portfolio Dilemmas, 'Lost Returns Approach'

Mohamed Elmesseary

ABSTRACT

Extending the basic belief on which the investment management business is built upon: Professional managers can beat the market; linking within a practical approach between the academics' views and practitioners' opinions regarding the market beating inability and the reasons from behind; paying some more attention to the returns, managers lose due to their insufficient active strategies; this work analyzes the past performance of the whole stocks that actually traded in the Egyptian market between June, 2007 and June, 2012 in order to measure how fund managers are geniuses by the zero returns they lose. It performs T-test among three types of portfolios, a well-known market index, the funds' portfolios, and the best actively managed portfolio that can be built and used as a restrict criterion. The findings reveal that adopting the simple thought of naïve investors, away from the portfolio optimization possibilities, do generate the active portfolio, which is economically optimized, as the investors initial resources are not only significantly sufficient for accessing its investments, but can be also recovered with no more than 3 months. And which can significantly out-perform the comparable benchmarks, but unfortunately, the fund managers are not geniuses due to the impressive returns they lose.

JEL classification: G1; G2

Keywords: Capital markets, mutual funds, performance evaluation, market timing ability, stock picking ability

Dr. Mohamed Fathy Mohamed Elmesseary is a Research Scholar at the Department of Management - Banking and Finance Track, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy. Actually; in two Universities, he has worked as a lecturer in corporate finance, investment, and feasibility studies for a long time. Despite that period provided with a great exposure to different areas in finance, which helped him find his real interests, but he felt that he is still lacking knowledge about the real finance world, so he decided to join the MSF program to build a better career, but soon realized that his interests and aspirations are indeed in both of the academic and practical area. His first step toward that is to finish his last stage of the PhD. His special interest lies within corporate finance, and one of the topics he is quite interested in is the portfolio management. He can also keep learning by doing novel researches, teaching updated courses, and enjoying a flexible life. His mind will always be excited by intellectual communication with peers.

Stock Picking and Market Timing of the Egyptian Fund Managers: Evidence from the Financial Crisis

Dr.Mohamed Fathy Mohamed

The findings of over-or-under performance of fund managers across the crisis periods are mixed. By analyzing the data of 35 Egyptian funds, this paper investigates the two skills of market timing and selectivity during-and-post the 2007-2008 financial turmoil; it also examines the comparative performance between the conventional and Islamic mutual funds. The results show no evidence of these skills even for the overall period or for the crisis one, where Chow - test documents that there are no structural changes either for the regression line or for its coefficients across the two sub-periods. These findings are supported by using two different benchmarks. Thus, it seems that investors cannot gain superior returns by investing in the mutual funds industry as a whole. Furthermore, the outcomes of the cross-sectional analysis report that investors cannot also attain higher returns by investing in a particular fund group against the other, implying that the ethical screening, which is adopted by the Islamic ones, and which limits their potentials of diversification does not impact their performance.

Keywords: Financial Sustainability, MicroFinance, Emerging Countries, Capital markets, mutual funds, performance evaluation, market timing ability, stock picking ability.

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Managing Refurbishment Projects Through Selection of Procurement System: The Case of Malaysia

Azlan Shah Ali, Au Yong Cheong Peng and Susie Chieng Ling

ABSTRACT

The study examined relationship between challenges encountered by contractors using different types of procurements towards refurbishment projects performance. Triangulation technique was used in the study. 316 sets of closed-ended questionnaires were sent out to respondents which included site agents, project engineer, contract administrator, contract manager and project manager who were working in various construction companies. From the sent out questionnaire, 268 questionnaires found to be useful for data analysis. Semi-structured interview has been carried out with 15 contractors to validate the result. The findings shown that 54.3% of the projects were used traditional procurement systems. Refurbishment projects using traditional procurement systems were performing well compared to the others. Besides, out of seven contractor challenges variables (independent) which are cash flow and financial, communication with client and consultants, client decision making, frequent change order by client, insufficient or discrepancies of contract documents, material price escalation and skill, expertise and experience tested were significantly correlated with at least one performance variable (dependent). The findings would be useful for future references, especially to those stakeholders who involved in refurbishment projects in Malaysia.

Keywords: Malaysia, Procurement system, Performance, Refurbishment

Azlan Shah Ali is a professor in the Department of Building Surveying, Faculty of Built Environment, University of Malaya, Malaysia. He has a PhD specialising in building refurbishment from UniversitiTeknologi MARA, Malaysia. He is a Fellow of The Institution of Surveyors Malaysia and of The Chartered Institute of Building, UK (CIOB); a professional member of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, UK (RICS). DrAzlan has been involved in a number of academic research and publications. His research interests are in project management (refurbishment) and facilities management (building maintenance) and have published numerous papers in both reputable local and international journals.

Au Yong Cheong Peng and **Susie Chieng Ling** are researchers at the Centre for Construction, Building and Urban Studies (CeBUS), Faculty of Built Environment, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The role of informal networks in community development Case study of the 151 poorest villages in Egypt

Mrs Ingy Mohamed Abdel Hameed

In developing countries there are many factors that affect the success or failure of development policies. Some of these factors related to the nature of informal networks that people heavily on both to survive and develop their communities. Statistics about poverty don't tell us a lot about these social interactions and their role in development, but recently many studies around the world have shed the light on it.

The study will explore the potential role of these networks in development of the poorest villages in Egypt. Based on the available data- both narrative and quantitative -about these villages. The main question of this paper is that, How do informal networks affect development? Are they obstacles? If not How could governments benefit from them as a stakeholder in development?.

Using the human development index plus many data resources that are available about these villages either qualitative or quantitative. In answer the above mentioned questions this paper will use rights to development approach, according to which engaging the end beneficiaries of development programs needs their participation by which these programs can achieve their ultimate goals, and informal networks can be one of the mechanisms if the designers of these programs understand the whole map of informal networks that control the community and how to direct them towards achieving public goals at community level.

Keywords: Development-poverty-civil society

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Stock Picking And Market Timing Of The Gulf Fund Managers: Evidence From The Financial Crisis

Dr.Mohamed Fathy Mohamed Elmesseary.

The evidence of market timing and selectivity of fund managers across the crisis periods is mixed. By exploring the data of 90 mutual funds, chosen from five Gulf countries over the 2007-2012 period, this paper offers a comprehensive investigation for these managerial skills during and after the Financial Crisis (FC) of 2007-2008; it also inspects the relative differences in performance between equity conventional mutual funds (CMFS) and Islamic ones. The results show no evidence of over-or-under performance for the fund managers due to these two skills, where there are no structural changes for the regression line across the two sub-periods, but it reveals the superiority of equity CMFS performance in Kuwait in particular along the overall period. Thus, it seems that if the investors cannot gain superior returns by investing in the Gulf mutual funds on general, they may attain a comparative advantage by investing in the conventional funds against the Islamic ones especially in Kuwait. It also implies that the ethical screening, which is adopted by the Islamic funds of Kuwait, already limits their diversification opportunities and then adversely affects their performance.

Keywords: Financial Sustainability, MicroFinance, Emerging Countries, Capital markets, mutual funds, performance evaluation, market timing ability, stock picking ability.

Dr.Mohamed Fathy Mohamed Elmesseary is a Research Scholar at the Department of Management - Banking and Finance Track, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy. Actually; in two Universities, he has worked as a lecturer in corporate finance, investment, and feasibility studies for a long time. Despite that period provided with a great exposure to different areas in finance, which helped him find his real interests, but he felt that he is still lacking knowledge about the real finance world, so he decided to join the MSF program to build a better career, but soon realized that his interests and aspirations are indeed in both of the academic and practical area. His first step toward that is to finish his last stage of the PhD. His special interest lies within corporate finance, and one of the topics he is quite interested in is the portfolio management. He can also keep learning by doing novel researches, teaching updated courses, and enjoying a flexible life. His mind will always be excited by intellectual communication with peers.

Temporal Energies

Analyzing the Way Time is Framed in Competing Energy Narratives

Barbara George

Post-normal science, according to Functowicz and Ravetz(1993), considers the way in which uncertainty in social contexts complicates past “normal” positivist science philosophies. The notion of post-normal science might address, for example, Rittel and Weber’s (1973) “Wicked Problems” in which the problems are not easily defined, are complex, are irreversible, have unclear solutions, have contradictory “certitudes”, and are persistent.

Within this framework, competing energy narratives that inform both policy and eventual practice, bear a deeper discourse analysis. Despite discourse encouraging emerging sustainable alternative energies, which pose long-term temporal considerations in line with future social justice, powerful discourses of fossil fuel extractive economies continue, in part supported by arguments that rely on much shorter time scales. This work employs rhetorical and critical discourse analysis to analyze the way in which competing energy narratives frame temporal considerations quite differently, and how this impacts immediate policy, which, in turn, impacts future action. In particular, this work explores the environmental justice concerns of these temporal considerations, and, often spatial considerations, by employing Nixon’s (2011) notion of “slow violence” that occurs in communities at risk of the ability to advocate for environmental justice.

Keywords: Post-Normal Science, Temporal Considerations, Environmental Justice, Critical Discourse Analysis/ Rhetoric, Sustainable Energy

Barbara George is a doctoral student and Teaching Fellow in the Literacy Rhetoric and Social Practice program at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. Barbara teaches composition and literacy courses at the university, and is involved with several community environmental education programs in the Ohio and Pennsylvania area.

Barbara's scholarly interests include literacy ecologies and pedagogies, and investigation in the way in which sustainability theory offers insight into various discourses surrounding complex social and environmental issues.

Future teachers' relationships with physical and technological environments.

Dr. Diane Pruneau
 Mrs Kerry, Jackie
 Dr. Freiman, Viktor
 Mrs. Langis, Joanne

Is future teachers' contact with the physical environment significant enough for them to choose to educate their students about sustainability? These digital natives stand out from previous generations by their way of living, working and learning. Does the use of ICT by these young adults contribute to distancing them from the physical environment? Are future teachers, better informed thanks to technology, committed to environmental action?

The research based on grounded theory was aimed at understanding future teachers' relationships with physical and technological environments. The analysis of individual and group interviews, with Moncton and Montreal teacher education students, reveals that future teachers maintain a sporadic relation to the natural environment. They are still conscious that nature provides them calmness, rejuvenation and beauty. The Internet, visited at least two hours daily, offers them distraction, social affiliation, personalized information, and facilitate their tasks and contact with the World. Future teachers are critical and cautious in their use of ICT but are however not much involved in the environmental cause.

The research emphasizes the need to work on future teachers' relationship to the physical environment with outdoor activities to get to know, appreciate, analyze and improve the natural and urban environments.

Keywords: Education, relationship with nature, relationship with technological environments

Doctor Diane Pruneau, Professor at the Université de Moncton, Canada, is specialized in environmental education and science teaching. She is the Director of the Littoral et vie Research Group, that conducts various research projects and pedagogical interventions in environmental education. The research group's objective is to educate adults and young people to environmental subjects and to help them to accomplish environmental actions. Dr Pruneau's national and international research programs have dealt with the understanding of the link people have with their environment, education to sustainable cities, climate change education, the process of taking on environmental actions and the development of sustainability competences.

Mrs Kerry, Jackie is a Researcher at the Dept. Littoral et vie Research Group, Université de Moncton, Canada

Dr. Freiman, Viktor is Professor at the DEPP, Université de Moncton, Canada

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Siyakhulisa: Community engagement towards quality Early Childhood Education

Prof. Elsa Fourie

Une Fourie

Investments in Early Childhood Development (ECD) are one of the most effective ways in which to decrease social inequalities caused by adverse environments as such environments hamper the development of young children. In South Africa, characterized by high levels of poverty and many learners coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, early childhood education can play a significant role towards school readiness. However, financial implications prevent the neediest of all from benefiting from such education. In this regard ECD practitioners in townships have a role to play. The Siyakhulisa project that started in 2008 aims to empower ECD practitioners towards quality early childhood development.

Keywords: Education; empowerment.

Prof. Elsa Fourie is Director at the School of Educational Sciences since 2006, Lecturer: School of Educational Sciences, North West University, South Africa. Prior to this position she was the Head of Academic development at a Teacher Training College in Sebokeng, a township in South Africa. Community engagement is one of her interests. Since 2008 she has been educating/empowering ECD practitioners from South African townships. Through collaboration, negotiated practice and active involvement of participants real empowerment can be achieved. This has resulted in quality early childhood education.

Une Fourie is Lecturer at the School of Educational Sciences, North West University, South Africa.

Research on Efficacy of Using Social Networks in Academic Teaching

Metrics, Experiments, and Results

Maria Grazia Albanesi¹, Riccardo Amadeo¹, Giovanni Vecchio¹

ABSTRACT

The study integrates a customized private social network in an academic course. We propose and measure a new metric, based on gamification principles, to understand the benefits on the student learning process. We applied the idea to two academic classes of 25 and 80 students, respectively, (Master Degree in Economy and Engineering Faculties, University of Pavia). The social networks has been monitored for one semester. The paper describes the educational principle at the basis of the methodology, the developed metric, and the results. This case study shows that the introduction of innovative approaches to social networking in academic classes can be used to focus student attention, rise motivation and, as final goal, increase the level of knowledge.

Keywords: Academic Education, Social Networking, gamification.

Maria Grazia Albanesi is a professor at the Dept. of Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering, University of Pavia. She graduated cum laude in Electronic Engineering (University of Pavia, Italy 1986) with a Master Thesis on image compression and visual perception. Later, she obtained the Ph.D. in Electronic Engineering and Computer Science (Pavia, 1992) with a thesis on image compression. She worked at ST Microelectronics on silicon compiler to design dedicated devices for image processing. She joined the Computer Department of Faculty of Engineering of University of Pavia, first as senior researcher (since 1993), then as Associate Professor (since 1998). Her main actual fields of interest are (a) quality and user-perception evaluation on visual and social media and (b) image analysis and processing in the field of computational sustainability, in particular in developing image processing based indicators for sustainable land use and biodiversity preservation.

Riccardo Amadeo got his Master Thesis in computer engineering at the University of Pavia, Italy in 2011 with a thesis on subjective and objective video quality assessment. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate (since 2012) at the same University, dept. of Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering, and he continues his research on quality assessment of visual multimedia information and on social media.

Prof. **Giovanni Vecchio** is a professor at the Dept. of Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering, University of Pavia, via Ferrata 1, I-27100, Pavia.

Studying Sciences through the Integrated Sciences Modules

Aspects related to the Students' perception

Assistant Prof. Radu Lucian Olteanu

Associate Professor Ph.D. Dumitrescu Crinela

Associate Professor Ph.D. Gorghiu Gabriel

Associate Professor Ph.D. Gorghiu Laura Monica

The "Profiles - Education through Science" training program oriented to improve teaching activities was organized in the frame of PROFILES project (<http://profiles.ssai.valahia.ro>). The general objective of the training program consisted on forming and developing specific competences of Science teachers in order to develop an educational process based on scientific inquiry and integrated approach of the Science curricula. Teachers have created Integrated Science Modules that were implemented in the classroom as an active learning Science method.

The present paper aims to emphasize the students' feedback after the implementation of Integrated Science Modules in the classroom. The study is focused on students' perception of Science topics related with everyday life and importance for society.

Keywords: Integrated Science Modules, Profiles project

Assistant Prof. Radu Lucian Olteanu Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Sciences Department, Valahia University Targoviste, Part of the Chemistry team inside Science Department as assistant prof. Besides teaching activities (laboratory, seminars, projects) he was and is currently involved also in educational projects. Other skills and competences: Capacity to motivate the team work, communication, openness, initiative, analytical thinking, balance, loyalty, determination and focus on results.

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Our Manner of Dwelling: An Ecopsychological Education for Sustainable Development.

Dr. Lori Pye

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. -- Nelson Mandela

To achieve sustainable development requires that we understand that all of life's systems (personal, social, ecological, economic, and cultural) are linked through multiple narratives and relationships; and to recognize the psychology of the individual is reflected in the psychology of the culture, of our nations, and in our world's complex issues.

An ecopsychological education bridges the sciences and humanities utilizing ecological, biological and depth psychological principles essential to sustainability to examine and transform deeply rooted unconscious narratives that drive human practices, civic illiteracy, policies, and decisions for how we design and craft our world in both creative and destructive ways.

An ecopsychological pedagogy affirms that we can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by developing capacity to innovate, to solve problems creatively, and with psychological competence and maturity necessary to ensure sustainability and the survival of our species.

Keywords: Education, Ecopsychology, Socio-Cultural Sustainability

Dr. Lori Pye is the President of the Viridis Graduate Institute: International School of Ecopsychology. She comes from a background in education, health, and environmental and marine conservation. She holds a doctorate in cultural mythology and depth psychology, and is among the leaders in developing the field of ecopsychology. As director of several NGO organizations she worked to co-develop the Eastern Tropical Pacific Biological Seascape Corridor with the Ministers of the Environment from Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, and Ecuador. Dr. Pye teaches internationally, has multiple publications in peer reviewed journals, and serves on the Editorial Board for *Ecopsychology Journal*. She is a member of IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), and European Ecopsychology Society. Dr. Pye founded and directs Viridis Graduate Institute: International School of Ecopsychology. She also serves as faculty at Kaweah Delta Psychiatric Residency Program, University of California Irvine; University of California in Santa Barbara (UCSB). Website: www.viridisedu.org

Determination Of Mentally Disabilities Teacher's Opinions Regarding The Special Field Competence

Prof. Dr. A. Gönül AKÇAMETE, Research Assistant Gamze ALAK
Research Assistant A. Emel SARDOHAN YILDIRIM
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The teachers have to believe in their own teaching competences and simultaneously they have to encourage the success of their students in order to be a good and effective teacher. These preconditions of being a good teacher refer to every teacher regardless of their several branches as well as to the teachers who graduate special education programs. Furthermore, teachers of mentally disabilities students have to pay attention to some essential aspects in teaching such as motivating the students for active participation in class, avoiding or minimizing inappropriate student behaviour, creating an environment for individual advancement of students and cultivating contact with the parents of the students. These are only a few important aspects which teachers should have to bear in mind. Additionally, the responsibility of teachers in special field competencies is also rapidly changing. In relation to this, the Ministry of National Education determined the qualifications of teachers with a special academic degree in 2008. Although the fact that a large amount of studies is available in relation to the special field competencies of teachers in other branches, there is a lack of information about the field competencies of teachers who graduate special education programs. At the same time some researchers who try to examine the field competencies of teachers who graduate special education programs have evaluated their results with their own determined criteria. The aim of this study was to evaluate the special field competencies of teachers of mentally disabled students. In this context, in this study to determine of mentally disabilities teacher's opinions regarding the special field competence is intended using specific areas of competence of mentally handicapped teacher by Ministry of National Education that teachers are employed mostly. Survey that converted 79 performance indicator to grading scale by Ministry of National Education was used to collect data in the research. Data were collected from 100 teachers of the mentally disabilities who field graduates participated in the study. SPSS 18 program will be analyzed datas using appropriate statistical methods and findings will be discussed with the literature about the topics.

Keywords: Teachers of mentally disabilities students, occupational competencies, special field competencies, special education.

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Social Modification With The Changing Technology In The Case Of Simplification Theory

Research Assistant Rana Nur Ülker

Research Assistant Büşra Turhan

ABSTRACT

Mc. Luhan's told "The world become global village" came truth. The global village, which main tools are mass media technologies, especially internet, made civilization socials. With the rise of the global communication, every new inventions can be known easily and the technology can be observed. As Marcuse said that the global communication not only makes people same but also simple. Tools are being simple which is understood by everybody from every civilization indeed every age period. In this study, we try to debate this matter, why and how "simplification theory" can make people and technology simple.

The simplification theory can be defined as when the media technologies are changed, peoples values and overlook of world are modified. Due to fact that societies' value and argument about the world translated technologic devices. To sum up, all the instrument of the about human being has changed.

Key words: Simplification, Social Modification, Mass Media, Technology, Globalization

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Applications, smart phones and value assessment: digital information in academic studies

Nádai Julianna PhD

GARAI, Anna PhD

ABSTRACT

In our presentation we focus on ways of decision mechanism how university students can evaluate the authenticity of digital information.

To have a deep insight we made questionnaires which are the most appropriate way to get a big amount of relevant information on the research focus, in a relatively economic form. It is an under-researched, unrevealed area and a key issue as we do not have a wide knowledge of value systems of mobile internet users, the relationship between phone and computer applications and learning processes.

Present statistics and social science publications are mainly focused on the increasing number of technical communication devices, that of applications and frequency of checking websites, but no research is made on users' evaluation mechanism.

Based on our questionnaires completed by university students we try to answer questions like how can students decide on authenticity of digital information? How can they use it efficiently for their studies? Based on the results you have the opportunity to develop new teaching methods in academic education for the future.

Keywords: Value assessment, mobinauts, academic studies

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The mirror of Pirandello in *Uno, nessuno è centomila* Between literary function, fiction and identity crisis

Gihan Diab

ABSTRACT

Problems related to the identity crisis in the Italian literature has arisen between the end of the Nineteenth century and the beginning of the Twentieth Century; as it is clear who the works of Freud has influenced a very wide range of writers not only in Italy but around whole world. The human spirit feels as if it's smashed between two realities, two identities or even more.

In his novel *Uno, nessuno è centomila*, Pirandello emphasizes the relativity of the reality that we may be think to live, the absurdity of the life itself, the impossibility to have only one identity, the incommunicability between people and the the absurdity of desiring to give standard form to the human spirit. In order to arrive to his purpose, Pirandello resorts to the mirror, not only as a literary tool, but it plays also a fundamental role which enables him to achieve his aim. To demonstrate to us the internal crisis that the writer feels and his desire to communicate it to the others, either to share it with them, Pirandello follows the next techniques adopted by other writers.

We can say that the use of the mirror in *Uno, nessuno è centomila* is not at all a tool for the recognition of oneself; it can be considered the opposite: the mirror deforms the image, reveals the absolute relativity and pushes to a crazy game of decomposition of the unique identity and even can erase it.

That's why we can affirm the importance of the objects and their functions in the literary texts.

Keywords: Identity, literary function, Pirandello

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Active Citizenship as a Model for the Care of Common Goods, Protection of the Rights and Social Participation

Dr. Sokol Pacukaj

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to analyze the Active citizenship and his role in the protection of common goods, protection of the rights and participation in the political and social sphere. Active citizenship means that civic participation has to do his duty in all areas of society where "citizens" are those who reside in a territory and have the right to vote, and "active citizens" are those who choose a concrete and ordinary dimension for a long time, or even for one time only of action and commitment. The object of this action and this commitment is the care of common goods such as health, education, the environment, land, security, quality of life, that a society holds in common. Active citizens are committed, therefore, on one hand to protect and preserve them, on the other hand to increase the availability and the allocation for the whole society and each citizen.

Keywords: citizen, political life, social sphere, governance.

Dr. Sokol PACUKAJ is a Lecturer at the Alexander Moisiu University of Durres, Head of the Department of Psychology. He graduated in 2006 in the faculty of Communication Sciences and Sociology at the University of Rome la Sapienza. In the same university he completed the master degree in "Innovation and development" in 2008 and the PhD studies in History of Europe in 2011. He is author of several articles on Education.

Measuring 'good architecture': Long life, loose fit, low energy

Professor Craig Langston

ABSTRACT

Good architecture is something that we all seek, but which is difficult to define. Sir Alexander John Gordon, in his role as President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, defined 'good architecture' in 1972 as buildings that exhibit 'long life, loose fit and low energy'. These characteristics, nicknamed by Gordon as the 3L Principle, are measurable. Furthermore, life cycle cost (LCC) provides a method for accessing the economic contribution or burden created by buildings to the society they aim to serve. Yet there is no research available to investigate the connection, if any, between 3L and LCC. It might be hypothesised that buildings with a high 3L index have a low LCC profile. If this is true, then LCC may be able to be used to assess 'good architecture'. This paper uses a case study methodology to assess the durability, adaptability and sustainability of 22 projects that have won architectural design awards. The 3L criteria can be measured and compared with average LCC per square metre using a long time horizon. The research is significant in that it tests a process to objectively assess what is commonly intangible and to determine if LCC is a suitable predictor of 'good architecture'.

Keywords: Sustainable urbanism, architecture, built environment

Craig Langston is Professor of Construction and Facilities Management, Faculty of Society & Design, Bond University, Australia. He is a research-intensive academic of nearly 30 years' standing. His work spans issues of sustainable development, building adaptation, multi-criteria decision-making, and construction performance. He has a strong research profile as author of five international books, over 100 refereed papers, and three software programs. He has also completed four Australian Research Council grants totalling about \$1 million. He won the Bond University Vice Chancellor's Quality Award for Research Excellence in 2010, the Emerald Literati Network Outstanding Paper Award (Facilities) in 2013, and the CIOB International Innovation and Research (Premier) Award for Best Paper in 2013. He has a passionate interest in the built environment and all things 'sustainable'. His PhD, completed in 1994, developed a new approach to the calculation of time equivalence in discounting via the inclusion of affordability considerations linked to predicted changes in living standards.

Sustainable Urban Development and Liveability. How can Melbourne retain its title as the World's Most Liveable City and strive for sustainability at the same time?

Edmund Horan

ABSTRACT

Melbourne is a sprawling city of 4.3 million people dispersed end to end across a distance of 100 km. The population is growing by 2000 each week. The spread of urbanisation results in the transport task of moving people and goods representing the second largest of the City's Greenhouse gas emissions behind stationary energy generation. If the City is approach a sustainable transport system it cannot continue in this vein.

This surging population is placing considerable strains on the City's infrastructure. A short fall in urban planning and investment in infrastructure is resulting in substantial traffic congestion on freeways, City access points and major arterial roads. The public transport system is overcrowded at peak periods. This growth pressure is also reflected in other areas such as social and health aspects where long delays are experienced at hospital emergency wards.

Amid the backdrop of these stresses and strains, Melbourne consistently rates highly - usually in the top three - of the World's Most Liveable Cities. Melbourne, again was crowned the title of the World's Most Liveable City in 2013.

Melbourne is a young city by world standards yet has a proud history developed by its forefathers in planning such attributes as large areas of parkland, pure and fresh water supply, clean air etc. This paper examines these issues in the light of sustainability and liveability. Can the two attributes learn from each other or are they in conflict for modern urbanisations. The situation in Melbourne is compared with cities in other countries to forecast a scenario where sustainable urbanisation goes hand in hand with liveability.

Is Melbourne growing too quickly? While yet not a megacity along the scale of Tokyo, Beijing or London, it will be in the future and failure to plan for that scenario will have greater detrimental effect than recently being experienced.

Right across the world, megacities are magnets drawing rural populations to the urban centres. The paper also investigates this phenomena in the light of sustainability or future urbanisation in contrast to possible alternative urbanisation of towns and smaller settlements around large regional centres. The concept of satellite urbanisation could be applied to Melbourne to relieve the growth pressures on the city and revitalise rural areas many of which are experiencing economic and population decline. New mobility strategies based on E-mobility at the local level feeding into sustainable transport systems for the longer transit to regional and urban centres are investigated.

Key words: liveability, sustainable urbanisation, mobility, greenhouse gas emissions

Edmund Horan is Program Director at Master of Sustainable Practice - RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

Socio Cultural Revitalization through an Urban Refill A Case Study of the Sustainability of the Bhendi Bazaar Cluster Redevelopment

Architect Quais Fatehi

ABSTRACT

Mumbai has the chronic problems of an aging, reactive city. Legislation could be better considered. Socialist cross subsidies recurrently impact the efficacy of Policy. A key problem is aging infrastructure compounded by aging neighborhoods which neither the civic administration nor the inhabitants have the resources to maintain, let alone refurbish.

Infused Private Equity allows for the resources to renew the Public Domain albeit for returns in the form of increased density to market.

One such project is the Bhendi Bazaar Cluster Redevelopment Project.

A century old, inner-city neighborhood, literally translating to 'Okra Market', Bhendi Bazaar is known for the peculiar combination of Food, Garments, Hardware and Antiques. Spread over 6.6 hectares, housing 3,200 families, 1,250 businesses, 6 mosques and a mausoleum, the resident population is 2/3rds Bohra, the merchant population is mixed. The challenges for this proposed refill development are multifaceted:

- Creating a Safe, Secure place for Community Congregation and bonding
- Improved and Renewed Services Infrastructure, Lesser Burden on resources, New Housing Stock.
- Safer, Cleaner and habitable neighborhood, native trees and open breathing spaces, better vehicular and pedestrian traffic movement and maneuverability.

This Case Study reviews one live perspective through planning data and documentation.

Keywords: 'Socio - Cultural Revitalization', 'Refill Urbanization'

Quais Fatehi is an Architect Planner from the Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur, based in Mumbai and working on corporate and developer townships, Mixed use developments and independent buildings. Passionate about understanding the end use of urban space, Quais promotes sustainable development through good engineering. Sustainable Organic Farming outside the City is a hobby.

City structure – the phenomenon of exclusion of space

Marta Szejnfeld PhD Candidate

MS Grzegorz Kmiecik

MS Hanna Szymczak

ABSTRACT

A special feature of spaces with urban character is the phenomenon of exclusion, which refers both to the space and the community, causing deformation and the disappearance of the unity of the urban structure as a whole. Spatial segregation processes – resulting from social polarization – causes low-income or marginalized groups lack of access to a high-quality urban space. Excluded spaces have become a constant component of visual reality in which gated communities, guarded buildings, or corporation complexes have divided the urban fabric, and in opposition to the city, are capturing more and more spaces.

The result of the appearance of the excluded spaces is the lack of the right to the city for all its habitants. Foresaid lack denies the participant the possibility of observation and penetration the urban structure, which further deepens the sense of alienation. In such spatial conditions the longing for re-evoking the idea of a sustainable city borns. The essence is therefore an insightful diagnosis of the impact of uncontrolled processes shaping the urban structure deepening segregation and exclusion from the urban space.

Keywords: Urban transformation, exclusion, inhabitants

Marta Szejnfeld is PhD candidate of the Warsaw University of Technology, Assistant at the Institute of Urban Planning and Architecture, University of Life Sciences in Poznan, Poland. Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology. Graduated in architecture from Poznan University of Technology in Poland and in urban planning from Hogeschool Brabant in Holland, currently a PHD student at Warsaw University of Technology and assistant at the University of Life Sciences in Poznan. Practicing urban planner. The research relates to the new urban transformation and city planning as a continuous and dynamic process, in which every sequence of events occurring after each other is the result of previous changes or external factors. Exploration of contemporary Polish city model is based on the analysis and understanding of planning processes that form the current structure of the city.

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PlaceMaking Approachment to Accomplish Social Sustainability

How placemaking can be used for social life?

Assistant Professor Dr. Elif Kutay Karacor

ABSTRACT

Together with migration and rapid population growth, social relations of the city inhabitants began to deteriorate. Together with this, individualization and isolation of people which leads to social problems have been debated in the scientific literature from the 1960s. In this context, the ensuring of social cohesion has become increasingly important developing by public spaces and place making idea which include community-based participation approach. However, placemaking idea is criticized because of being elitist, not to provide social equity and caused the gentrification by different views. The aim of this study is introduce that how placemaking idea has been evaluated which is developed by Jane Jacobs' "eyes on the street" concept and become related to social sustainability until now. As a research method, various case studies have been observed and literature review has been conducted. Result of the analysis, process and application differences of placemaking approachs have been examined. Thus, how placemaking approach to be effective in different places on social sustainability was discussed, hence the positive and negative aspects were revealed as well. Obtained results of this study are expected that contribute to the design and planning principles of cities to create engaged community.

Keywords: Placemaking, community, social sustainability

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Sustainable Building through Project Planning Process

Associate Professor Dr. Anuar Alias

Nor Kalsum Mohd Isa

Dr Zulkiflee Abdul Samad

ABSTRACT

Sustainable building projects are naturally different from conventional projects due to the requirement of special materials and building practices, as well as the management commitment to sustainability. Therefore, a sustainable building project requires additional considerations on many aspects more than the conventional project. Although there are many researches on the paybacks of a sustainable building, nevertheless, huge numbers of barriers also contributes to the multiple failing of the projects within the market such as knowledge gaps, communication shortfall, ownership structure and operating cost responsibility, funding issues and the risks, and other technical and process issues. Many researchers believe that project planning process holds the strategic position in overcoming the barriers all together. Modifications should be made to the traditional planning process and practices in order to minimize risks and improve the chances of delivering the project successfully. This paper offers ideas and recommendations on the initial concept of sustainability integration strategies that can be practiced throughout the project planning process towards delivering a successful performance of a sustainable building. The concept is very useful to be a starting point for the development of a practical 'Sustainability Integration Framework' during the planning process of a sustainable building project in the future.

Keywords: Sustainable Building Project; Construction Project; Project Planning Process

Associate Professor Dr. Anuar Alias is an associate professor in the Department of Estate Management, Faculty of Built Environment, University of Malaya, Malaysia. He has a PhD specialising in property development and environment from University of Malaya. He is a Registered Valuer and Estate Agent with the Board of Valuers, Appraisers and Estate Agents Malaysia. Dr Anuar has been involved in a number of academic researches and publications. His research interests are in property development, project management, valuation/taxation, and land rights/land acquisition and have published numerous papers in both reputable local and international journals. He is now as the Head, Centre for Construction, Building and Urban Studies (CeBUS), Faculty of Built Environment, University of Malaya.

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Housing Programs As Vectors Of Urban Space Production

Sandra Maria Scheffer
Dr Samira Kauchakje

ABSTRACT

The soil use and occupation are historically produced and reveal the dynamics of each society and the interaction between several social segments. Public policies foster the production of urban space, more specifically the housing policy, through the implementation of programs that define characteristics of space concentration and determine the population profile. In March 2009, the Program “My House My Life” was launched, this is a Federal Program that in one of its income groups aims to prioritize the support to families living in risky or unhealthy areas or that have become homeless, therefore, are exposed to socio-environmental risk. This study presents preliminary results regarding the analysis of urban space production, under the perspective of sustainability and considering the implementation of the Housing Program in the city of Ponta Grossa, State of Paraná, Brazil, from 2010 to 2013. This city is relevant for the study as it received high investment of Federal resources to build housing units. The city also presents a large number of precarious settlements with families living in socio-environmental risk and who demand housing. The methodology adopted is the Henri Lefebvre Method, called regressive-progressive, which helps to reflect on the historicity of the space production through the perception of receivers’ and implementers’ lives. Research preliminary data was gathered from governmental organizations documents. The housing policy is shown as a vector of space production in which some distancing of the individuals involved might occur regarding the moments of the policy conception and its implementation.

Keywords: Families in socio-environmental risk, housing policy, space production

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Expansion of the Urban Area. The Fertilizers As One Of The Challenges In The Coexistence Of Rural And Urban Spaces

Dr. SCHIMANSKI EDINA, Sandra Maria Scheffer,
Dr. Reidy Rolim de Moura

ABSTRACT

This paper is part of a study carried out by researchers from the group of studies on environmental, gender and poverty issues, which is linked to the Applied Social Sciences Masters and Doctorate Program at Ponta Grossa State University. This is a qualitative-quantitative study with characteristics of exploratory research, which addresses the social consequences of the use of fertilizers to poor families living in the periphery of the city of Ponta Grossa in the South of Brazil. Data, obtained through field trips, interviews and participant observation, demonstrated the seriousness of the population contact with fertilizers. Theoretical studies on the theme identified that one of the most remarkable phenomena in the current Brazilian society is the speed of the urbanization process. Historically, the expansion of cities has been marked by the logics center - periphery, and in the last decades the transfer of groups of people has been noticed from the most central areas (due to economical and estate interests) to the most peripheral ones. It is important to consider the consequences of this phenomenon and how it is foreseen in the municipal planning, once it is in the rural-urban where the most significant natural resources are found, those which are vital to both the environmental balance and urban infra-structure systems. In the region of Ponta Grossa, Paraná State, South of Brazil, a process of strong junction between rural and urban has been observed. The evidence is that several areas and entire communities have developed very close to large areas of soya, corn, wheat and other crops and thus, are totally exposed to the fertilizers used in those areas. Data collected also shows that the families living in those areas experience a routine of severe environmental, social and health problems without really understanding how serious this problem is.

Keywords: Rural and urban spaces, Fertilizers, Health problems

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Composite City Approach: a paradigm shift in city planning

Naveed-Ul-Haq PhD Candidate
Dr Muhammad Irfan Khan

ABSTRACT

In this paper, classical walled cities with narrow streets and ceremonial places built by monarchs for security and grandeur; modern urban planning with orthogonal urban form, structure plan emphasizing transportation corridors, height zoning; and innovative urban planning, strategic spatial planning without predetermined urban form, compact city approach and green or eco-city approach were analyzed. Based on the analysis, a novel “composite city planning approach” is proposed, which may provide an ultimate answer to human quest for a functional, convenient, technologically assimilated and sustainable urban form. This approach warrants for flexibility inspite of proposing predetermined urban form in a “composite Plan” and subsequent “Opus Plans”. The city will contain quad-tier transportation infrastructure i.e. low flying zones, spiral public avenues, lind roads, pedestrian streets; “Intermittent Zoning”, “Amenity Area” providing necessities and “Facility Centre” having multi-use high-rise buildings with parking plaza. Inverse architecture for B+G+3 house abating pedestrian streets with walking, cycling, skating lanes will emerge an “inventive urban form”. Economic, Environmental, social and institutional indicators are proposed to be examined in context of resource utilization. The indicators represent a primary tool to provide guidance for policy makers and to potentially assist in decision-making and monitoring local strategies/plans. The outcome of the study will contribute to the design of policies, tools, and approaches essential for planning to attain the goal of sustainable development and the social cohesion of metropolitan regions.

Keywords: Sustainable Urban Planning

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Dr Muhammad Irfan Khan is Chairman at Dept. of Environmental Sciences, IIUI, Pakistan.

Re-Examining the Control Mechanism of Regulations and Guidelines for Sustainable Property Development on Highland Areas: A Case of Malaysia

Khairul Nizam Othman

Associate Professor Dr. Anuar Alias

ABSTRACT

The paper focuses on the development issues, implementation problems and property development prospect pertaining to property development in highland. The analysis has been carried out on the provision of planning and development guidelines and development plan, and physical development trend.

Governing property development has always requires a holistic approach in decision making. The legislations for property development that are in placed still could not ensure the sustainability of development pertinently on highland areas. These areas need more detail consideration and approaches specifically in the development process, implementation as well as the monitoring aspect. In lieu of that, the current planning, development guidelines and regulations need to be re-evaluated to examine the effectiveness of the current development mechanism in ensuring sustainable highland development. Evidences from the case study have shown that the weaknesses lie in the decision making process, implementation and enforcement aspect of the property development process which have high influence in the property development growth and values. Besides, the study also revealed that property legislation setting should provide the proper implementation mechanism. Recommendations to ensure the prospect and sustainability of highland development are emphasis on the needs in continuation of legislations and implementation procedures, monitoring actions as well as the necessity for the development players to collaborate and understand the important of sustainable development.

Keywords: Highland, Legislations, Property Development, Sustainable.

Khairul Nizam Othman is a senior government officer who is specialise on urban planning and property development. Experienced in various governments agencies at federal, states and local authorities in the area of master plan, planning control, development appraisals and Managing Operation. Currently, he is on study leave for post graduate (PhD. Candidate) study at University of Malaya, Malaysia. His research interests are in property development, Hill land development, development legislations and sustainable development.

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Environmental Ethics Education As A Tool For The Prevention Of Environmental Problems In The Community

Dr. Abdullah Karatas

ABSTRACT

Today environmental problems have reached very important and serious levels. Destroyed nature and contaminated earth by people day to day reveals this reality in the best way. People are responsible for the creation of this negative picture. However, people are dependent on their environment for living like all other creatures and also helpless against the environmental problems caused by themselves. Deterrent laws and fines are also inadequate for the prevention of environmental problems. People need to be conscious about the environment more than anything else. In this respect environmental ethics education will be able to guide them. The community members, becoming more conscious by environmental ethics education can question their relationship with the environment again and behave more environmentally friendly. For sustainability in the earth, people should learn how to behave ethically towards other creatures and nature. With this theoretical study, the importance of environmental ethics education for the community within the context of non-formal education will be discussed.

Keywords: Environmental Ethics Education, Community, Sustainability, Environmental Consciousness, Non-formal Education

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Algal Biomass Effect On The Total Amount Of The Biogas By Adding In To The Yeast Factory Waste Sludge

MSc.Hande Ermis, Prof. Meltem Conk Dalay

ABSTRACT

Due to decreased fossil fuel reserves and increased prices of petrochemical fuels, and the simultaneous effect of fossil fuels on excessive greenhouse gas emissions leading global warming, the world is trying to find an alternative renewable energy sources and the biomass energy has the highest potential among other renewable sources. Due to not requiring arable land, their higher productivity and higher biofuel yield compared to terrestrial plants, microalgae has the highest attention in the field of bioenergy.

In this study, it is aimed to determine the effect on the total amount of the biogas by adding differently pretreated algal biomass isolated from last settling tank grown as a by-product in yeast waste water treatment system, as a substrate in yeast factory waste sludge. By harvesting microalgae grown as a byproduct, the microalgae production cost will be lowered, eutrophication will be avoided; and by adding microalgae to biogas lab-scale system, the effect on total biogas may be increased.

As a pretreatment, physical processes were carried out which were microwave, sonication, and autoclaving. For biogas experiments, the reactors (1L) were inoculated with a methanogenic yeast sludge. The CSTRs were operated each daily feeding event being initiated by the removal of an appropriate volume at a hydraulic residence of 30 d. With a greater understanding of algal species and their biological characteristics, the anaerobic digestion of microalgae can play a promising role in the sustainable future of bioenergy.

Keywords: Microalgae, biogas, pretreatment, wastewater, yeast sludge

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Optimization of Two-Stage Microwave/Chemical Pretreatment and Enzymatic Hydrolysis of Tiger grass (*T. Maxima*).

Tidarat Komolwanich PhD Candidate, Sirirat Prasertwasu
Assistant Professor Thanyalak Chaisuwan,
Associate Professor Sujitra Wongkasemjit

ABSTRACT

Impressive monomeric sugar yield was obtained from *T. Maxima* naturally grown in Thailand by the two-stage microwave/chemical pretreatment, followed by the enzymatic hydrolysis.

Tiger grass (*T. Maxima*) was considered as an important perennial energy crop in Southeast Asia with high productivity and low demands for fertilizer. The aim of this research work was to evaluate monomeric sugar yield from *T. Maxima* by two-stage microwave/chemical and enzymatic pretreatments. The optimum conditions of the pretreatment were investigated. The microwave-assisted NaOH and H₂SO₄ with 15:1 liquid to solid ratio were studied by varying reaction time, reaction temperature, and chemical concentration to maximize the amount of the obtained monomeric sugar. The maximum monomeric sugar released from the microwave-assisted NaOH and H₂SO₄ pretreatments were 6.5 g (at 140 °C/15 min, 1%(w/v) NaOH) and 30.4 g (at 200 °C/5 min, 0.5%(w/v) H₂SO₄) per 100g of biomass, respectively. After the enzymatic hydrolysis of the microwave/chemical pretreated *T. Maxima*, the maximum monomeric sugar released from enzymatic hydrolysis was 95.1 g/100g of biomass (at 45 °C/120 h, pH 4.8, and enzyme loading of 160 µl/g biomass). The structural changes of *T. Maxima* were characterized using scanning electron microscope (SEM).

Keywords: Thysanolaena maxima; Two-stage pretreatment; Trichoderma reesei

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The right of Diplomatic Asylum in the Communist State of Albania

The case of Popa Family

MSc. Kleida Abbas

ABSTRACT

After the Second World War, the establishment of the harshest communist system in Albania, imposed total isolation of the state and society through the employment of one of the fiercest dictatorships of all time. Albanian citizens lived under the complete lack of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the right to life, liberty and security, political and social rights, religious freedom, the right to property, etc. Under such economic and political alienation, the appeal for diplomatic asylum of the Popa family in the Italian Embassy was a shock to the Albanian authorities, which sought to uphold unwaveringly the installed communist regime. The Italian state was forced to deal with a situation outside the scope of its absolute sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction. The theme of this research paper involves the analysis and identification of international legal principles and norms (the immunity of diplomatic premises, the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, the defense of human rights, and state sovereignty) as well as the diplomatic management of legal responsibility affected in part by the sensitivity of public opinion toward the consideration of rights of the asylum seekers. This paper highlights how the political and strategic interests of the governments of the states involved are decisive in resolving the conflict.

Keywords: Diplomatic asylum, non-interference in internal affairs, state sovereignty, immunity of diplomatic premises

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Agroecological approach to improve and strengthen an urban farming system.

Case study: Pinar del Rio – Cuba.

Dr.Stefano Dell'Anna, Prof. Leonardo Varvaro
Prof Luis Enrique León Sánchez, Dr. Delizia Del Bello

ABSTRACT

In the last decade the issue of urban farming has received the interest of the international scientific community. The experience developed in the town of Pinar del Rio (Cuba) with the pilot project Granaja Urbana is based on an agroecological approach through the adoption of methods and techniques that increase the resilience of local production system.

The paper is based on the study of this sectors of intervention: a) localized irrigation: implementing a system of drip irrigation able to minimize losses through evapotranspiration; b) soil fertility: making a careful analysis of soil fertility to ensure a minimum level of organic matter; c) control of plant diseases: introducing methods and techniques with the use of only natural substances; d) renewable energy: implementation of a photovoltaic system for the irrigation. The agroecological approach guarantee the rational and sustainable use of natural resources, the valorization of local knowledge and the food security for the people living in urban and peri-urban areas.

The great success of the pilot project indicate the need to monitor the experience with the aim of providing concrete data capable of demonstrating the resilience of the urban farming system.

Keywords: Agroecology, urban farming system, food security, renewable energy.

Dr.Stefano Dell'Anna is currently conducting a PhD at the Perugia University on "Sustainable rural development, land use and environment". He was involved from 2001 in a several programs and projects of applied research in Latin and Central America, Middle East, West Africa on the topics of rural development, agroecology, water management, food security and food sovereignty. Degree in Agricultural Sciences, has collaborated with NGO, University (Tuscia and Florence), research centers, in several training programs and projects on development & cooperation (Europe Aid, FP7, LLP). He worked also as a support team to social movements and peasant organizations in the context of the processes, dialogues and activities with UN agencies and several international government bodies (FAO, IFAD, CFS).

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From Sustainability To Sustainability Science

Prof. Stefano Grego

Dr. Pier Paolo Danieli

ABSTRACT

Improving the sustainability of humanity's relationship with Planet Earth is firmly established as a societal goal for the 21st Century. To achieve it we need a better understanding of how to govern "the process of moving towards greater sustainability". With climate change, global water and energy crises, desertification and many other manifestations of global environmental change becoming more and more evident, there is a widespread and increasing feeling in the society that the concept of "sustainable development" is not sufficient. Normally we considered all the changes that are currently occurring in a sectorial way.

The aim to understand the dynamics of coupled social-ecological systems stimulated an innovative, problem-driven research that has been called Sustainability Science. This field carried out a basic research agenda, an increasing production of results, and a growing number of researchers committed to teaching its methods and findings. Like agricultural and health science, Sustainability Science is a field defined by the problems rather than by the disciplines it employs. From its core focus on advancing understanding of coupled human-environment systems, Sustainability Science has reached out with focused problem-solving efforts. Sustainability Science is expected to gain great interest and sustain both by the Academia and by economic and social stakeholder.

Keywords: Trans-disciplinary approach, Sustainability Science, Sustainability

Prof. Stefano Grego is Full Professor at the Department of Agriculture, Forests, Nature and Energy (DAFNE), University of Tuscia. He graduated in Agriculture at University of Perugia in November 1968 and in October 1969 won a permanent position as researcher at the Institute of Biochemistry and Ecophysiology of Plants of National Research Council of Italy (CNR). Since November 2000 he is Full Professor in Agricultural Chemistry at the University of Tuscia in Viterbo. At the University of Tuscia He has been Pro Rettore Vicario (2001-2008) and nowadays is Deputy Rector for International Relations. The value of his scientific activity was recognized by several European Universities which conferred him the title of Doctor of HonorisCausa. He has been involved in many different activities regarding the cooperation for development and has been scientific co-ordinator of EC projects in some Frame Work programmes. He has been elected in 2005 President of the European Society for New Methods in Agricultural Research (ESNA) and he is still in this position. In November 2008 has been elected Vice President of the Agency for the Promotion of the European Research (APRE) (2008-2011). Prof. Stefano Grego is member of many national and international scientific societies and in the board of some of them.

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Accounting standardization and financial reporting in public sector in Albania- future challenges

Ariana Konomi Phd. Candidate, Alketa Bejko Phd candidate

ABSTRACT

The need for improving and strengthening all the links of financial reporting chain not only in private sector but also in public sector, directly contributes to overcome the 2010-2012 global crisis and helps to transform the ongoing period into a global economic growth period. The governments should implement the necessary institutional measures for public sector growth, financial management transparency and accountability.

An integral and fundamental element of these agreements is the usage of accruals (according accounting) by approving and implementing International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which enable the full disclosure of all the assets, liabilities and conditional liabilities, as a basic issue for real assessment and financial management of public sector, extended monitoring of government debt and liabilities, for their real economic implications.

In this paper, as part of my research dissertation, I tend to prove that the implementation of accounting standards in public sector of Albania, besides the unification of accounting and financial statements preparation, intends to influence right, qualitative and long term decision-making, at all government levels; to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of financial resources; formalize the economy and better fight the phenomena of corruption, fraud, money laundering or funds abuse; improve the level of fiscal transparency to public and integrate or face the global economy.

As the main challenge of this sector and also as a process that needs time, financial reporting, requires a continuous reformation of policies, institutions, structures and professionals.

Keywords: Accounting standartization, financial management/reporting, public sector.

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Water Capture Efficiency, Use Efficiency And Productivity In Sole Cropping And Intercropping Of Rapeseed, Bean And Corn

Dr. Samaneh Najibnia, Prof. Alireza Koocheki,
Prof. Mahdi Nassiri Mahallati, MSc. Hassan Porsa

ABSTRACT

In order to evaluate water capture, use efficiency and productivity in sole and intercropping systems of rapeseed (*Brassica napus* L.), bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) and corn (*Zea mays* L.), an experiment was conducted in two growing seasons of 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 in research field of faculty of agriculture, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran. The experiment was conducted as a randomized complete block design with three replications and six treatments. Treatments included monoculture of rapeseed (sown 23 September), bean and corn (sown in 30 April) as sole cropping and also simultaneous double cropping of bean and corn (sown in 30 April), two stage relay intercropping of rapeseed (sown in 23 September) and corn (sown in 30 April) and finally three stage relay intercropping of rapeseed (sown in 23 September), bean (sown in 9 April) and corn (sown in 30 April). Intercropping combinations showed positive and significant ($P \leq 0.01$) effect on water capture efficiency compared with sole cropping treatments. Double cropping had the maximum value of this index as 0.56 mm/mm. There was superiority for double cropping in water use efficiency and productivity, too. The values of land equivalent ratio for intercropping combinations were more than one ($LER > 1$). Rapeseed sole cropping and double cropping showed the highest values of economic productivity of irrigation water (EP). Totally, it seems that double cropping in most cases was superior to other treatments.

Keywords: economic productivity of irrigation water (EP), land equivalent ratio (LER), seed yield

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Albanian industry problems and perspectives, in front of the crisis and international labor allocation

Dr. ERMONELA RUSPI, Klodian Muco PhD Candidate
Arjola Mitaj PhD candidate

ABSTRACT

Recently the Albanian economy has continuously recorded a significant reduction of the GDP growth rate, from 7.5 % in 2008 to 1.3% in 2013. This decline is followed by the deficit and public debt increase, where the latter reached in 70.4% in March 2014, compared to 59.9% in 2009. The interesting fact to note is that, although the 2008 financial crisis first was initiated in USA, it has influenced the economic development of all the countries. While our country that was indirectly affected by the crisis has experienced a substantial decline of remittances, significant reduction of FDI, and shrunken labor market dynamics even in those activities that generated employment at a large extent although under the legal and vital minimum wage such as fasson or call-center services, which has directly affected unemployment growth and domestic consumption reduction.

This paper aims to provide an analysis of the Albanian economy from two main aspects, both macroeconomic and microeconomic. In the first part it will be discussed recently Albania's economic performance and the main factors affecting its growth in the long term. While in the second part it will be discussed Albanian productive structure, analyzing the changes of export structure of Albania, its production specialization, speaking about labor intensive sectors and their impact on the domestic economy.

Keywords: foreign trade, economic development, commercial specialization,

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Albania's trade specialization and economic growth perspective in the future.

Arjola Mitaj PhD candidate, Klodian Muco PhD Candidate
Jonida Avdulaj PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

Starting from 1992, the Albanian economy has experienced a gradual openness. Initially, it was applied for the first time, the structural adjustment program which contained some basic aspects such as: a restrictive monetary policy for inflation control, liberalization of the economy and prices, public enterprises privatization in order to restructure and attract foreign investments, full market liberalization. It was also adopted the "open gate" policy that means a progressive opening of the country to foreign investment, which was based on comparative advantages of Albanian economic system, or more precisely on the low cost of labor force which is estimated at 90 cent for the fasson sector and call-center service, groundwater resources, its geographical position with access to both Adriatic and Ionian Sea.

Based on the above facts, this paper will try to make an empirical analysis of comparative advantages of Albania, taking into account the degree of international trade openness and Balassa revealed comparative advantage (RCA). It will also be analyzed the structure of Albanian international trade and its production specialization in order to give some information on the future economic specialization of our country and help policy makers to orient economic development policies.

Keywords: foreign trade, economic development, commercial specialization,

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Tourism development and Human Resources challenges (Gjirokastra Region)

Daniela Qiqi PhD Candidate

Lindita Rova PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

The economic development of many countries in general, depends on a large extent on the development of the tertiary sector and tourism is one of the most important components of this sector. Tourism significantly affects GDP growth, export growth, environmental protection and also employs many people. As a result, many developing countries promote tourism as a tool for economic and social development. In our country tourism development tends to be one of the main ways to alleviate the problem of high unemployment.

Human resources play a vital role as an important element in the organization's performance for achieving its economic objectives. This role is increased even more in the case of organizations that provide services. This means that it is necessary to ensure high standards of quality and efficiency of HR. Intended objectives can only be achieved by defining the specific needs of human resources development in various segments of the sector.

Keywords: Tourism sector; Employees; Economic development; Human resources

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Lindita Rova PhD Candidate is Director of Regional Educational Directorate, Gjirokaster and Assistant Lecturer at Gjirokastra University.

BANKING REGULATION OF WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES

Denada HAFIZI, PhD Candidate

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ABSTRACT

The current global economic crisis has affected the development of banking system in Western Balkan Countries, including Italy and Greece. These effects are expressed with the contraction of lending, fallen of foreign direct investments, fallen of the volume of remittances and fallen of international trade. The banking system continually faces new challenges in a dynamically changing financial system, and this makes difficult the implementation of bank regulation and supervision.

All the countries have improved their banking regulation in order to avoid the contagion effect among banks and banking system in general, effects that get increased especially when banks are engaged in international banking. The standardization of regulatory requirements provides potential solution to the problems of regulating international banking. So, there is a moving through agreements like Basel Accords.

For all these countries will be a comparison of regulatory capital to risk-weighted assets ratio and of capital to assets ratio in order to find out how well is capitalized their banking system. The sources of data are the reports of International Monetary Fund for a time series of 2008-2013. In the end there are some conclusions for the main problems that the implementation of supervision and bank regulation faces.

Keywords: Basel Accords, Capital Ratio, Banking Regulation

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The Environmental Impacts Of Tourism On The Insular Area Of Greece

Professor Olga Christopoulou
Sakellariou Stavros PhD candidate
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ABSTRACT

Tourism is widely known that it is one of the most enterprising branches of the tertiary sector of economy in many countries. Nevertheless, over the time, touristic activity has resulted in a significant number of environmental problems related directly or indirectly to the coastal and insular area. The foundation of the methodology of this paper is built on the DPSIR assessment framework. The number of environmental problems caused by the intensive tourist development in these areas, such as the depletion of natural resources, the spot and extensive pollution of specific sources and also coastal erosion, lead to a short-term intensive tourism development, which cannot be considered viable in the long run. Finally, it should be highlighted that especially for the tourist sector, environmental asset constitutes the milestone of a healthy socioeconomic development for any country. So, appropriate decision making and measures should take place for the integrated protection of such a precious and vulnerable resource, ensuring its viability both in environmental and economic terms.

Keywords: Coastal and insular area, environmental impacts, Greece

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Use of Sustainable Environmental Crop Production Practises By Farmers in Ogbomoso Agricultural Zone Of Oyo State, Nigeria

Prof. Ismail Oladeji Oladosu

ABSTRACT

Sustainable environmental crop production practices by farmers in Oyo state Nigeria was evaluated. The study concludes that farmers still exhibited low awareness on sustainable agricultural production practices in the area.

This study evaluated crop farmers' awareness and use of environmentally sustainable agricultural production practices in Ogbomoso, zone of Oyo State, Nigeria. The approach included the identification of crop farmers' sources of information in promoting the awareness and practices of environmental management among the farmers in the study area. The study also determined the level of awareness of the respondents about the effect of their crop production practices on environmental degradation; type of environmental management practices used by the farmers and level of use of sustainable environmental management practices.

Multistage sampling procedure was adopted for data collection. The data collection instrument was an interview schedule. Data analysis involved the use of both descriptive statistical tools and chi square likelihood test. Results obtained from the analyses indicates that majority of the crop farmers are aware of sustainable crop production practices; however they most (63.4%) rated low in the adoption of same. Majority of the crop farmers demonstrated positive attitudes towards sustainable environmental management through recommended practices. Result of inferential analysis shows that educational status, land tenancy status, level of awareness, age and sex of the crop farmers influenced crop farmers' level of use of sustainable environmental management practices.

Keywords: Sustainable environmental management practices, crop farmers

Prof. Ismail Oladeji Oladosu is an Academic Professor at the Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Ladoko Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria. After graduation in April 1988 he worked as an instructor at Michael Okpara College of Agriculture, Extension agent With the Oyo and Osun states' Agricultural Development Programmes; where disseminated information and trained farmers on the use of improved sustainable agricultural production practices. He began his academic career as an Assistant lecturer after the completion of Master Degree in 1995. Ph.D degree was received in 2000; and became Professor in 2008. He has worked as a consultant with the Oyo State Fadama II programme; a project that encourages participatory approaches to agricultural development. His current research activities which involves his Doctoral students are in the areas of climate change adaptation strategies of farmers in Nigeria and sustainable agricultural production practices.

The Characteristics of Participation of the School Community in a Shared Management Model

Dr. Renato De Oliveira Brito

Dr. Luiz Síveres

ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study of a qualitative and exploratory character is to analyze what the characteristics of the school community in a shared management model are in a school of the public school network of the Distrito Federal, Brazil, which was honored with the National Award of Reference in School Management (Prêmio Nacional de Referência em Gestão Escolar) and is situated in a financial needy location. Therefore, a bibliographical review and an on-site study was used for the purpose of clarifying the informative objectives upon which successful shared management would be characterized, emphasizing the main points to be pursued and the actions that would be most suitable for this characterization. In this study, the actions and, principally, the degree of participation of the stakeholders (students, teachers, technical-administrative personnel, support staff, parents and community) were observed. The purpose was thus to revise the concepts presented or reaffirm them so as to concretize the models adopted and standards to be followed so that shared management achieves success and becomes a reality in all schools in Brazil.

Keywords: Shared management. Participation, School- community relationship.

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Dr. Luiz Síveres is PHD in Sustainable Development (University of Brasilia) and Post Doctoral Degree in Education on Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP), Consultant in Education Field and. Nowadays he is Director/ Professor of Master's and Doctorate Education Program of the Catholic University of Brasilia.

Potentialities Of Shared Management For A Sustainable Society

Dr. Renato De Oliveira Brito

Dr. Luiz Síveres

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to outline the factors that contribute to a feeling of motivation on the part of the school community and to encouragement of its participation in issues related to the school routine. We specifically sought to understand whether the management framework adopted by the school, the object of this study, contributes to the active participation of the community to facilitate the implementation of projects related to environmental education for a sustainable society. The methodology of this qualitative research was a review of the literature and application of questionnaires as data collection instruments. We concluded that the factors that contribute to the school community participating in the elaboration and implementation of the educational policy project of the school, the object of this study, lead to its shared management model favoring the implementation of educational projects for a sustainable society.

Keywords: Shared management. Environmental Education, School and community relationship.

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Gravity model on EU countries

An econometric approach

Megi Marku PhD candidate

ABSTRACT

Foreign Direct Investment, play a huge role in the growth of the global businesses. They can provide to a firm, new markets where the firm can operate, new marketing channels, manufacturing facilities, access to technology and to the products, and they also provide techniques and funds previously unknown. For the host country, this source of technologies, capital, processes, techniques, and managerial skills can provide an important impetus to the economic development of the country. Through this study, we will analyze how FDI are affected by the distance and by the economic size of the country. Given that such a gravity model (size and distance) on FDI already exists, this research will examine particularly the impact of these two factors on FDI of the EU member states. The hypothesis raised in this paper is related to the fact that the gravity model with its factors is extremely important for the volume of FDI. Using statistical judgment and econometric analysis it will be explored if the hypothesis rose above, is statistically valid or not.

Keywords: Gravity model, International trade,

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Reinforcement of Energy Knowledge in Higher Education of African Countries

Dr. Angel Sánchez, Dr. Domingo Docampo
Dr. Angeles Cancela, Dr. Rocio Maceiras
Eng. Víctor Alfonsín

ABSTRACT

The principal objective is to foster inter-institutional networking between higher education entities in the ACP countries and EU. The aim is to increase “know how” in the fields related to the efficient use of energy, and take advantage of small scale use of renewable energies applied to the development of marine sector. Within this network, an institutional framework will be formed to enhance the academic performance of HEIs in ACP countries, becoming regional attraction poles with training programs linked to the labor market and a reference of quality.

On the academic level, the aim is to make available to the HEIs all the training experience of the University of Vigo, which forms part of the Campus del Mar (Campus of International Excellence), at undergraduate, graduate and professional training levels in the fields of renewable energies. Furthermore, HEIs in ACP countries will profit from the teaching infrastructure of the Digital Campus (online education platforms, WebTV, videoconference) and all the material generated by professors at the universities linked to Campus del Mar. The project will contribute to the training (in-person or not) of the local trainers, thus allowing new in-person and online teaching programs at the same time.

The action proposed is confined to the target area Energy Access and Efficiency.

The project is focus on countries whose population working on the artisanal fisheries and small scale aquaculture such as Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Mozambique.

Keywords: Education, Renewable Energy

Angel Sánchez is professor of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Vigo, teaching Chemical Engineering at the Industrial Engineering Faculty. Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, simulation and learning.

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Transesterification of waste frying oil under ultrasonic irradiation

Dr. Angeles Cancela, Dr. Rocio Maceiras
Eng. Víctor Alfonsín, Dr. Angel Sánchez

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the effect of ultrasounds in conversion of waste frying oil into biodiesel. Many researchers have studied the use of ultrasounds in the biodiesel production from different feedstock; however, there are few studies focused on the biodiesel production from waste frying oil.

In this research, ultrasound-assisted transesterification was carried out to convert the waste frying oil into biodiesel directly. The effect of different process parameters such as reaction time (30-90 min), amount of catalyst (0.5 -1% wt. NaOH) and temperature (20-40 °C) were also analyzed to obtain the higher conversion. A methanol to oil molar ratio of 6:1, 0.5% amount of catalyst and 30 °C was enough to complete the process in 60 min.

The obtained results in this study confirm that that ultrasound-assisted transesterification was a fast and efficient method for biodiesel production from waste frying oil even if reaction temperature is low.

Keywords: Ultrasound transesterification, Waste frying oil, Biodiesel

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Scientific basics of forming human quality and perfection to ensure holistic sustained development

Dr. Prof. Nickolay Suvorov

Dr. Prof. Iryna Suvorova

ABSTRACT

The general substance underlying the existence and development of the Universe and Man is energy. Energy is the unique and universal nature of all being. Everything is reduced to the amount and quality of energy.

We were the first in the world to scientifically substantiate harmony as the universal criterion of the quality of energy of inner and outer interaction, optimality, perfection of energy-information images and systems of diverse nature.

The harmony help solve the problem of forming high quality and perfection of human personality.

Harmony is the key technology of creation, which God introduced when creating the Universe.

The principles of harmony and holism are the basic components of Cosmo theory, the theory of development of the Universe and Man.

In concentrated form, the theoretical studies dedicated to harmony and forming a new and perfect human being are presented in the book by NICKOLAY SUVOROV: " – Perfect Man", International Publishers E.RA, 2014, 300 pp.

Embracing harmony creates conditions for sustained development-evolution of any human being, nation and civilisation as a whole.

We believe that in the EU countries it would be practical to set up R&D and perfection training centres for studying and practically applying harmony.

Keywords: Harmony, quality, perfection

Dr. Prof. Nickolay Suvorov is Military retiree, Colonel. Actually Research Division at a Private company. He acquired good scientific and materialistic education, viz. graduated from the Suvorov Military School with honours and a military academy summa cum laude for service in the Strategic Missile Forces. For a long time, he educated and trained highly-qualified young officers for service in the Missile Forces. Teaching, education and science were the essence of his life.

Dr. Prof. Iryna Suvorova is Leading Scientific Researcher of the Department for Nonconventional Energy Technologies, The A.N. Podgorny Institute for Mechanical Engineering Problems (IPMach) of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NAS of Ukraine). Project leader in creation of multi-function hydrocavitation systems of energy transformation for producing the new qualitative composite liquid fuel oils (CLFO) with high power and ecological indices and their effective incinerating. An authority in the field of mathematical and computer modeling.

Rethinking & Recasting the use of Bilateral Investment treaties as tools for sustainable development: The Kenyan Experience

Ms. Faith Simiyu

ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is a fundamental principle of International Law. It is closely related to and [should be] a core objective of any international treaty seeking to address developmental concerns. Curiously, however, a critical review of [legal] literature reveals seemingly little attention given to the actual assessment of 'how and to what extent' existing BITs have addressed sustainable developmental concerns. This is particularly in relation to BITs involving developing countries in Africa such as Kenya. Accordingly, taking Kenya as an illustrative case, this study makes a critical assessment of the BITs concluded between Kenya, the Netherlands, Britain, and Germany; with a view to establishing how and to what extent the said BITs have addressed sustainable development. The study argues that most (if not all) BITs remain silent on sustainable development. Further, the methods of addressing sustainable development are premised on placing host state obligations to protect investors and their investments. In doing so, the implied assumption is that protection will attract foreign investment necessary for financing sustainable development. Nevertheless, as the study highlights, difficulties have arisen in measuring how revenue generated from foreign investment has contributed to the sustainable development. Accordingly, the study urges a collectively rethinking of the usage of BITs as a tool for sustainable development by recasting the BIT structure to make sustainable development an explicit objective.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Foreign Investment, Bilateral Investment Treaties, host state, foreign investor, developing countries

Ms. Faith Simiyu is Assistant Lecturer at the School of Law, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. An advocate of the High Court of Kenya, law lecturer and legal practitioner with over three(3) years' experience in the legal industry. Presently, she works as a Law Lecturer at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. She is also a volunteer to the International Legal Consultancy Group where she facilitates training of Kenyan governors, senators and other government representatives on the legal and compliance issues in the public sector. She has diverse skills and interest in legislative drafting, policy formulation, analysis, assessment and legal auditing in the public management sectors with bias towards sustainable development. In fact, this was the subject area of her Master's thesis when pursuing her postgraduate degree in Commercial Law (LLM) at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Her undergraduate degrees consist of Bachelors of Laws (LLB.) and a Bachelor of Education (Bed (Arts) degrees obtained from Kenya.

Cement Production and Sustainable Rural Farming Livelihood in Nigeria: Striking a Sensible Balance through Environmental Legislation and Enforcement

Dr. Luke Okojie

ABSTRACT

This paper undertook the damage valuation of cement production induced air pollution on rural farming livelihood, assessed the impact on farmers' profitability as well as investigating the corporate social responsibility investment of the cement companies in the producing host communities in Nigeria. It then examined how legislation and enforcement can be made to strike a sensible balance between the environmental damage enabled by cement pollution and ensuring a sustainable farming livelihood. A two stage simple random sampling procedure was adopted for the paper to select a total of 120 respondents in the target and control areas. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Dichotomous-Choice Contingent Valuation Method (DC- CVM) that terminated into the logit model and the budgetary analysis. The total Willingness-To-Pay (WTP)/annum to avert the negative externalities on the host communities' farming livelihood was N3.21 billion. The profitability in farming in the target cement producing area with respect to the net farm income and the rate of return to capital investment were lower in the target as compared to the control area. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments of the cement producing companies were small compared to the profits realized by them. The proportions of the CSR investments with respect to the company's profits were between 0.4% and 1.6% for the five years considered in the paper. Efforts have been made by the government to enact laws, regulations and standards to ensure environmentally sound and sustainable environment though the institution initially put in place to implement them was not given legal powers of enforcement. Things are however changing with the establishment of another with such powers. It is only by such proper implementation, a sensible balance can be struck between uncontrolled cement dust pollution associated with excess profits to the cement producers and sustainable farming livelihood guarantee with enhanced corporate social responsibility ensured to the host communities.

Keywords: Environmental damage, pollution, valuation, corporate social responsibility, livelihood, legislation, enforcement.

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Development Of The Banking Market In Albania

Alqi Naqellari, Dr. Sokol Pacukaj , Ms.Elona Shahini

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to analyze the development in banking sector in Albania since its strands and up to the present day. To highlight its role and influence in the Albanian Economy. The materials that are used are mainly taken by the Bank and INSTAT, Annual Statistical Reports, Monthly, Annual Reports and other materials needed for research. Methods used are mainly looking for methods of description, comparison, analysis and synthesis, the Gini index, Pearson, HHI, CR etc. The achieved results. Albanian Banking System is originated in 1850. Is divided into several periods. We have taken in the analyze the occurrences after 2003. There are 3 coins circulating in Albania. The banking system is concentrated in two poles, six leader banks and 10 with satellite role. The effect of the monetary policy transmission is low BOA for inflation, the cost and distribution of loans and the growth of economy. In conclusion, the banking system is deformed. Should be create a bank with state capital and gradually eliminate foreign currency deposits and loans.

Keywords: banking market, credit, deposit, styptic and expansionary monetary policy, inflation, unemployment, transmission effect,

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Students' assessment and class management: A critical Approach

Ervin Balla, PhD candidate

ABSTRACT

We know that the teaching method is effective only if it reaches the targets of the program. Teaching the students in each level should be tested. The assessment and the testing of the students are important parts of teaching and learning process. The students learn very well in classes is constant and is part of student's expectations. The assessment can be done in various ways, through testing at the end of the term, or can be done continuously. However testing and assessment should be taken really seriously if we want to achieve high results in our work as English teachers. Also the class management plays an important part in the process of teaching-learning and it is closely connected to the assessment and testing of the students.

Key words: assessment, class management, teaching, learning. testing

Evaluation of Determinative Precautions of Unemployment, Undertaken Decisions and Policies to its Decrease in Albania.

M. Sc. Arben Terpollari, Prof. Asoc. Edmond Kadiu,
Prof. Dr. Stilian Apostoli
Prof. Asoc. Majlinda Belegu, Prof. Dr. Henrieta Themelko, Dr. Flora Merko

ABSTRACT

This material is an introduction of the main indicators having affected unemployment and job market, it is a theoretical and empirical analysis of different active policies of employment. The data used in this empirical analysis are observed during the last 15 years.

Unemployment, is known as a macroeconomic “chronic disease” to which adding inflation, make up the two most determinative problems in economy. Often; the decrease of unemployment data is considered as the first symptom of the first phase of recession, making it a big financial burden to the government.

Unemployment causes discredit of the human capital simultaneously it credits unemployed. Due to this fact, these categories except of being a financial burden to the government, they become a target of risk. (Increase of criminal cases in state level).

Albania is the 5th ranked in the region, after Macedonia (33%), Bosnia Herzegovina (24%), Serbia (17.4%) and Turkey (14%), Albania (13%), Montenegro (11%), Greece (9.4%), and Croatia (9.2%). Based on a time limit analysis, we can see that Montenegro has an extreme decrease of unemployment during last 10 years.

Unemployment increase is the crucial factor which highly indicates in the average salaries, however, there's chance of being optimistic to the consumers because of the highly evaluated expectancies. “Expectancies for the 6 upcoming months are foreseen optimistic compared to the last of 2014, the actual balance has decreased in 5.4 points (the balance decrease shows the tendency in lower level of unemployment)”, this is highly emphasized in the report of the Bank of Albania “ Observation of business and consumer's faith”.

Key words: unemployment level, employment policies, unemployment cost, measuring unemployment.

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The Analysis of Conditions and Level of Sustainable Development of Rural Areas in Poland And Germany

Aleksandra JEZIERSKA-THOLE and Miroslaw BICZKOWSKI

ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to present the conditions for sustainable development of rural areas in Poland and Germany. The paper attempts to determine the appropriate system of indicators and measures in four dimensions: environmental, economic, spatial and social, that can be used to evaluate sustainable development. The comparative analysis of the sustainability level was based on the correlation analysis. . The high level of sustainable development was observed in rural areas of the zone of direct impact of larger urban agglomerations. The further from the centre of the city, the lower level of development was recorded. The counties showing small differences between the three dimensions (environmental, social and economic) have a higher level of sustainable development. Those showing large differences between the three dimensions have a lower level of balance between the natural, social and economic dimensions.

Key Words: sustainable development, rural development measures, Poland, Germany

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Language as a Tool for Multinational companies, Insights on the Issue, including Albanian Market Proposal for Research

MBA. Olda Çiço
Msc. Elfrida Dishmema
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ABSTRACT

We communicate with words. Language as a tool of understanding, giving responses, making decisions, and having a better way to reach business goals is to be under consideration. This paper aims to explain why globalization has a very important impact on management, particularly because of the language used during various work aspects of multinational companies. The focus is why experience in this kind of research suggests writing on this issue and trying to implement the past results in Albania. While Albania is facing the integration process and it is part of a globalized economy, it has to be considered the fact that we are expecting more foreign investments, even from multinational companies. Cross-cultural problems are to be taken under consideration, especially the language.

Keywords: Language, knowledge, Diversity, Multinational Companies, Albania, Performance.

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Equilibrium of the Governments by the Principle of Subsidiary

Xhabir Zejnuni

ABSTRACT.

The principle of subsidiarity on these days is not identified so much as a legal or philosophical concept, but as testing capabilities and possibilities of this principle. Application of the principle of subsidiarity is able to exploit the potential of all collectivity, fully implementing the Constitution. The task of the juridical order must be recognition of the dignity of every person; which should be promoted and evaluated through a legislation based on the principle of subsidiarity. This principle expresses a preference in performing the functions of government at the closest level of citizens. Subsidiarity can be of various types such as horizontal or vertical; positive or negative; static or dynamic; substantive or procedural. In some countries, subsidiarity is specifically defined in their constitutions, while in some other countries is implied. But this principle in the civil law is defined more directly. Subsidiarity does not find the same application in all states and this fact depends not only on each country's traditions but also and in their development.

Key words: Subsidiarity, Constitution, State, juridical order, law.

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Organizational Culture Impact on Psychological Empowerment of Academic Staff

Prof.As. Dr. Kseanela Sotirofski

Abstract

The main aim of this study is to examine the dimensions that have impact to the psychological empowerment academic staff in Albanian universities. Despite the factors like professional growth, self-efficacy, and decision making we especially get focused on the organizational culture thinking that it can have a powerful influence on the psychological empowerment, because it describes the link between contextual factors and employees' work behaviors. The research question of this study is: Which type of culture is needed in a university that improves academic staff to get empowered? This study aimed to examine the relationship between organizational culture and psychological empowerment of academicians in university `Aleksander Moisiu` in Albania. A total of 46 interviews are made with the academic staff.

Results of the study showed that organizational culture have a great impact on the psychological empowerment of academicians and its dimensions. The dominant culture in research universities was hierarchy culture, while the strongest predictor of psychological empowerment was clan culture.

Keywords: organizational culture, psychological empowerment, university.

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Territorial Marketing, an interdisciplinary enterprise

Dr. Azeta Tartaraj

Abstract

Each territory is an integral part of the whole therefore territorial marketing takes the form of an interdisciplinary enterprise for a certain territory, where development strategies are also "part of the whole" and where other non-economic life elements, take greater importance in political and administrative decision-making. So the profit generated by actors operating in a given territory, takes a relative sense, because it takes into consideration the "profits" of the community form at the "expense" of direct gaining from economic and business actors.

The paper aims to explain the complexities in the theoretical and practical understanding of the marketing territory, as an interdisciplinary enterprise, analyzing such elements as: economic policies, urban planning and development; Economics and public finance; Theoretical approaches, game theory and sociology.

The economic policy's purpose about decision-making is related to the orientation of the economic system and its weight in accomplishing the given target, which consists into: the development of the economic system through planning instrument that influences the long-term planning of economic phenomens; Changes in income redistribution between territories, which relates to the need to strengthen the process of industrialization of the less developed regions, where the development disparity has often created an obstacle to employment, economic growth and social welfare.

In our country, planning as an economic policy and a redistribution between different territories, has been and remains a priority for economic and social development, which are an important part in the SAA (Stabilization and Association Agreement between Albania and the EU).

Economy and public finances are two other disciplines, which have managed to find their role in building a social economy: the fulfillment of the purpose of defining a social optimum, which means a better use of available resources and redistribution process as equal as possible between individuals/residents in that area.

Key words: territory marketing, interdisciplinary enterprises, game theory, public finance, economic policies, urban planning.

Equal rights. Up to what point?

Xhabir Zejnuni

Abstract

Today around the world is being discussed on human rights. These rights have taken and take each day more space and attention. With the evolution of today's society evolve the requirements of a part of this society for even more special recognitions. Such knowledge has to do with unions or gay marriages. For the applicants of this right, this requirement is more than natural, while for part of the other society this kind of requirement is not natural, knowing the cell of society is natural family created by the union of a man and a woman that has as ultimate goal childbearing. Demand for unions or gay marriage is not so easy to realize apparently at first sight, because then the consequences will fall upon all civil society. Also accepting gay unions or marriages, brings to amend and modify the relevant legislation which creates threatening of the balances set before. Anyone today can make choices, which he believes are most appropriate for his or her self, but not to the point that this choice affect the rest of society, as it has (also) choices which cannot or should not be resolved necessarily.

Key words: civil rights, constitution, society.

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