



Second Annual International Conference in Leicester (UK) on *Aligning Local Interventions with the UN Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs)*

Call for Papers

The Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development (IESD) at De Montfort University (Leicester, UK) is organising the annual international conference in July 2020 in Leicester to explore the alignment of local level interventions with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference will include presentations from the final dissemination event of a UK-Japan networking project on the alignment of climate action plans with the SDGs alongside papers selected from this call. We are inviting abstracts of papers for presentation in the conference.

Background

In 2019, the first annual international conference organised by the IESD focused on Energising the SDGs through technology and governance. The two-day event considered how technology and governance could support the implementation of the SDGs. The conference attracted authors from different parts of the world and focused on energy, water, health, innovation and architecture in urban and rural communities. One of the areas that was highlighted in the conference was the need for an integrated, systems perspective in implementing the SDGs to capture the synergies and avoid the hindrances.

Accordingly, the main theme of this year's conference is to explore the alignment of local level interventions with the SDGs. A wide range of development interventions are undertaken by local authorities, governments, donor agencies, NGOs and even the private sector in urban and rural areas. These interventions aim specific challenges but there is limited evidence base to inform us whether these interventions have taken advantage of possible synergies with other areas or challenges so that a more effective outcome is obtained. It is also not clear whether the decision-making in isolation is still continuing and whether an opportunity is being missed locally, nationally or more widely to develop a more joined-up thinking to deliver the SDGs.

Thematic Areas

This year we are considering three main thematic areas. These are indicated below:

- a) **Climate actions and their SDG alignment:** As part of a UK- Japan Social Science Networking project, IESD is working with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) on the alignment of city climate action plans with the SDGs. The findings from the British and Japanese cities will form part of the dissemination activity. Accordingly, interventions on climate change (SDG 13) and their alignment with other SDGs will be one of the themes of this conference.

- b) **Alignment of energy, water and food interventions with other SDGs:** Access to energy, water and food remains a global challenge and interventions in these areas widespread globally. However, to what extent are such interventions considering the inter-relationships between different SDGs? Are decision makers cognizant of potential synergies and hindrances? Has any process change taken place in view of the SDGs? How does the organisational arrangement support or hinder exploitation of such synergies? What could be a more appropriate governance arrangement?
- c) **Alignment of interventions in sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) with other SDGs:** In a rapidly urbanising world, local actions on cities and communities are receiving greater attention. Yet, such interventions, unless appropriately designed using a joined-up approach, can contribute to the widening gaps in the society in terms of inequality, loss of opportunities for catching-up, biased development priorities, etc. Rapid technological change, demographic evolution, geo-political developments and other external factors can aggravate the challenge as well. Instead of leaving no one behind and prioritising those who are furthest behind, are city and community level interventions creating a vicious circle? Are they creating new barriers to developing a fairer society?

We invite contributions from researchers, academics and other stakeholders on above thematic areas. Please send a structured abstract of 500 words to sgdiesd@gmail.com by **15th March 2020** indicating the title of the paper, purpose of the work, the methodology used, main findings and your recommendations for better alignment of developmental interventions with the SDGs. A review panel will consider all abstracts and authors of the accepted abstracts will be asked to submit the full paper (with a page limit of 8 A4 sides) by 30th May 2020. At least one author will have to present the paper in the conference – physically or virtually. A token registration fee of £30 will be payable per delegate for any accepted paper.

The conference will offer an opportunity to contribute to the special issue of *Energies* (an Open Access Journal by MDPI) titled *Communities Living Sustainably: Multiple Perspectives on Low Carbon Energy* being guest edited by Prof. Mark Lemon, Dr. Birgit Painter, Dr. Andrew Mitchell and Dr. Ashley Morton.

Important Dates:

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15th March 2020

Acceptance information sent to authors: 28 March 2020

Deadline for full paper submission 30th May 2019

Conference presentation 2-3, July 2020

For further information, please contact: Prof. Subhes Bhattacharyya, IESD
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Structured abstract template

Title of the paper	
Author names	
Affiliation	
Corresponding author	
Contact details of the corresponding author	

Abstract (not more than 500 words covering the following four elements)
Introduction, purpose and objectives:
Methods
Main findings
Conclusion