

The Sustainable City III

Urban Regeneration
and Sustainability

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Preface

The urban areas around the world continue to grow, and managing this process is the greatest challenge for urban planners and the governments. The main thrust is to enhance the quality of life in urban areas. Protection of the built environment, preserving the cultural life of the city, improving urban amenities, increasing accessibility, and maintaining the environmental quality are some of the key objectives in urban planning and development. The third International Conference on Sustainable City is set in the background and importance of these objectives.

This book comprises the collection of most of the papers presented at the Conference held in Siena, Italy in 2004. The two previous conferences took place in Rio de Janeiro in 2000 and Segovia in 2002 and were very successful. The 2004 conference was no exception. Judging from the diversity of contributions and participants, it can be justly claimed that the Sustainable City conference series continues to provide a unique forum for sharing the latest experiences, achievements and best practices in improving urban living in a truly international context.

The 70 papers included in the Book reflect the latest projects and state-of-the-art practices and methodologies in sustainability and urban environment.

This conference, like its predecessors, focused on a diverse and important range of topics. Key areas covered in these proceedings include planning and strategy, transport and the environment, waste management, land-use management, community and cultural issues, employment and economic issues, housing and public safety and security. The wide variety of backgrounds of the authors and participants and the diversity of topics covered make this Volume a unique contribution to the state of the art in Sustainable Cities.

The Conference's Honorary Chairman was the late Nobel Prize Winner, Ilya Prigogine, who passed away in 2003 when the 4th Meeting was being organised. Prigogine's work on evaluating ecological systems was the inspiration behind many of the works presented at the Meeting. His influence has shaped the Group headed by Professor Enzo Tiezzi of the University of Siena, one of the Co-Chairmen of the Conference. It was deemed appropriate in the circumstances to institute a Prize in honour of Prof Prigogine, consisting of two medals and awards, one to be awarded to a senior scientist and the other to a young researcher. The first prize was awarded to Professor Sven Jorgensen of the Pharmaceutical University of Denmark for his work on modelling of ecological systems.

The Editors are sincerely grateful to all the authors and delegates at the conference for their active participation, and to the International Scientific Advisory Committee for their assessment and suggestions in reviewing the abstracts and papers. The embodiment of these papers in the form of this book is certainly a very valuable addition to the most recent literature on the subject of urban sustainability.

The Editors
Siena, 2004

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