

Sustainable Planning and Development

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The Sustainable World

Aims and Objectives

Sustainability is a key concept of 21st century planning in that it broadly determines the ability of the current generation to use resources and live a lifestyle without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. Sustainability affects our environment, economics, security, resources, health, economics, transport and information decisions strategy. It also encompasses decision making, from the highest administrative office, to the basic community level. It is planned that this Book Series will cover many of these aspects across a range of topical fields for the greater appreciation and understanding of all those involved in researching or implementing sustainability projects in their field of work.

Topics

Data Analysis	Simulation Systems
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Preface

This book contains most of the contributions presented at the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Planning and Development, held in Skiathos, Greece in 2003. The Meeting was organised by the University of Thessaly in Greece and the Wessex Institute of Technology, UK, with the collaboration of the Municipality of Skiathos. The Conference addressed a variety of subjects related to spatial planning and regional development in an integrated way and in accordance with the principles of sustainability.

In recent years, there has been in many countries an increase in spatial problems that has led to planning crises. Planning problems are often connected with uneven development, deterioration of the quality of urban life and destruction of the environment. The increasing urbanisation of the world coupled with the global issues of environmental pollution, resources shortage and economic restructuring demand that we make our cities places worth living in. On the other hand, problems of environmental management and planning are not restricted to urban areas. Environments such as rural areas, forests, coastal regions and mountains face their own problems that require urgent solutions in order to avoid irreversible damages. The use of modern technologies in planning, such as geographical information systems and remote sensing, give us new potential to monitor and prevent environmental degradation.

Effective strategies for management should consider planning and regional development two closely related disciplines and emphasize on the demand to handle these matters in an integrated way. The Conference provided a common focus for planners, environmentalists, engineers, policy makers, economists and other government officials, researchers, academics and practitioners specialising in the range of subjects comprising sustainable planning and development.

The Editors of this book would like to thank all authors for their high quality presentations and in particular, the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee who helped to review papers.

The Editors
Skiathos, 2003

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