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# Island Sustainability

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**Computational Mechanics Inc**

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E-Mail: [infousa@witpress.com](mailto:infousa@witpress.com)

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A Catalogue record for this book is available  
from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-84564-434-5

ISSN: 1746-448X (print)

ISSN: 1743-3541 (online)

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## Preface

This book contains papers presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Island Sustainability organised on the Island of Brac by both the Wessex Institute of Technology of the UK and the Hydrographic Institute of the Republic of Croatia.

Croatia, having a rich sea area with over a thousand islands was an ideal location for the event which attracted delegates from many different countries. The Croatian Hydrographic Institute, host of the meeting, is in charge of the most significant projects related to the development of those islands.

Current global socio-economic trends call attention to the endangered conditions of relatively confined environments all over the world. Many of these regions face problems of depopulation and lack of adequate infrastructures. The problems are aggravated for the case of islands which have limited resources and few possibilities of developing different types of supporting infrastructures.

Many islands depend on tourism for their economic survival. Most of them however, cannot provide all the resources required to maintain a large seasonal population and in many cases basic requirements such as water and energy, as well as agricultural produce, need to be imported.

The impact of large seasonal population increases in the community and the resulting socio-economic factors need to be carefully evaluated, as well as issues related to transportation and communication, all of which should be part of an overall strategy.

Of primary importance in many cases is to ensure all year round economic activities in order to achieve a permanent and completely sustainable use of the islands' potential.

This book contains papers dealing with projects, initiatives and experiences related to different island issues. By using the experience of well developed island

environments, it is possible to learn how to ensure the development of other island communities, not only to prevent depopulation but to encourage new settlement. Those projects will serve as guidelines for other initiatives in less developed islands, adapting those experiences to specific regional, cultural and socio-economic characteristics.

The objective is to encourage the sustainable development of islands taking into consideration all their specific qualities, aiming to sustain life, to encourage demographic revival through economic development, in a manner harmonious with their natural environment and their cultural and historic traditions.

Different islands present a variety of diverse problems but much can be learned by sharing their experiences. This book demonstrates how this can be done.

The Editors are grateful to all authors for their contributions and to the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee who by reviewing the papers were able to ensure the high quality of the book.

The Editors  
Brac, Croatia, 2010

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