
Preface

This book introduces a set of papers presented at the “Green Campus Summit” (GCS-2013), organised by the Association for Promoting Sustainability in Campuses and Communities, under the auspices of the Research and Transfer Centre “Applications of Life Sciences” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Pondicherry University (India), Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), and Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee, Government of Puducherry. It took place in Puducherry, India, on 4–5 April 2013.

The aims of GCS-2013 were: to provide Universities and Higher Education Institutions all round the world with an opportunity to display and present their works on campus greening initiatives; to foster the exchange of information, and dissemination of knowledge, ideas and experiences; to promote adopting/implementing strategies for campus sustainability; to discuss methodological approaches for campus greening projects and provide opportunities to showcase thought leadership; to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation and collaboration. GCS-2013 was attended by over 200 delegates from 12 countries—representing both industrialised and developing geographical regions—and was a great success. The delegates included several leading experts/practitioners on green campuses and sustainability from around the world.

Apart from the plenary lectures on the state-of-the-art of knowledge and practices on the subject, the technical sessions covered important topics such as: Action Research and Models of Campus Greening Initiatives, Environment Education and Curriculum Development, Green Building/Architecture/Land Use, Energy Management/Energy Conservation/Green Chemistry, Waste Management/Water Management/Water Treatment/Transportation and Campus Ecology/Biodiversity/Food Services and Food Security. All these elements are reflected in this book.

It is unanimously agreed that integrating the principles and the concepts of green campuses and sustainability into the core of students' academic experiences from the high school to College/University levels is important, since it ensures that the current and future student communities acquire the required knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to create a more sustainable economy and social environment in the future. It is also widely accepted that commitments at institutional level are more likely to make a positive difference and help progress towards a sustainable future. This book fills a gap and helps to address these issues.

The present book "Implementing Campus Greening Initiatives: Approaches, Methods and Perspectives" is a ground-breaking publication on the theory and practice of sustainable development, and offer a comprehensive overview of campus greening, focusing on both industrialised and developing nations. We hope readers find it both informative and useful in their day-to-day work and that it supports long-term efforts in fostering campus greening.

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Implementing Campus Greening Initiatives

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