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## Preface: Introduction to EESD15 E-Book

On the morning of 10 June 2015, approximately 125 delegates gathered on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada to open the 7th International Conference on Engineering Education for Sustainable Development (EESD15).

The conference opened with a keynote address from Jim Cooney, Professor of Practice in Global Governance at McGill University and a man instrumental in bringing sustainable development into aspects of Canadian and international mining practice. Delegates heard the inside story. EESD15 offered two more keynotes. Cynthia Atman, Director of the Centre for Engineering Learning and Teaching, University of Washington, shared results from some of the outstanding engineering education research investigations she has led over the years. And the closing plenary was generously given by Karel Mulder, Project Leader of the Education for Sustainable Development project at Delft University and the Chair of the first EESD conference, which was held at Delft in 2002. Karel's talk was reflective and provocative—the perfect close.

The University of British Columbia's Vancouver campus is well known for its sustainability infrastructure projects and, during EESD15, delegates were given walking tours of the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS), the Bioenergy Research and Demonstration Facility, the Biodiesel and Clean Energy Research laboratory, the LEED Platinum “Nest”, which is UBC's new student union building, as well as student-led tours of the campus.

Experts offered workshops on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development, Environmental Ethics, Social Life Cycle Assessment and Life Cycle Costing, the 5-Step Methodology for Teaching Sustainability that is supported by CES EduPack (Granta Design) and Backcasting in EESD. There was also a special session devoted to delegates playing board games that can be used in the classroom.

One afternoon of the conference was held in downtown Vancouver where delegates participated in a Stakeholder Dialogue entitled: *A Dialogue on Accelerating Engineering Practice for Triple-Bottom-Line Sustainability*. And student posters presented engineering for sustainable development research projects.

And then there were the papers—73 were presented. The Session topics, many of which are represented in this book, included:

- Global Engineering,
- Assessing Programs,
- Assessing Student Performance,
- Curriculum Design,
- Change Agency,
- Project Courses,
- Comparing Programs,
- First year courses,
- Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation,
- Working with Others,
- Novel Teaching and Learning Techniques,
- Personal Growth and Life Long Learning,
- University Nudges toward Sustainability, and
- Sustainable Development in the Built Environment.

As has become the custom, the conference Steering Committee awarded a prize for best conference paper. *The EESD15 Leo Janzen Prize for best paper was awarded to Scott Jiusto and Richard Vaz from Worchester Polytechnic Institute for their paper entitled: “Designing for impact: a model of community engagement for sustainable development”.*

This book fills the gap on publications related to engineering and sustainable development, and presents a set of papers that refer to both its theory and practice, as well as aspects of lifelong learning, and formal and informal pedagogies.

The EESD15 Conference chairs are grateful for the tremendous energy and support of the Keynote speakers, the Local Organising Committee members, supporting UBC staff members, the student volunteers, the Conference Steering Committee members, workshop and stakeholder dialogue facilitators, International Scientific Committee members and Conference tour guides.

We hope this book will be useful to all those interested in the connections between engineering education and sustainable development, and that it will encourage and catalyse further works in this field.

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