


Preface

For more than two decades, from the Brundtland Commission in 1987 to the Rio+20 Conference of the world leaders in 2012, debates on environmental sustainability and human welfare have challenged societies worldwide to seek innovative approaches to sustainable and equitable development. The multifaceted crisis of environmental unsustainability in China and India, intricately intertwined with threats to human security, has undoubtedly acquired unprecedented complexity as well as a sense of urgency in the era of extensive environmental degradation and climate change. Meeting the needs of a growing human population and a booming economy without compromising the long-term integrity of the environmental foundation for all life in China and India is the essence of the search of these two countries for sustainable development strategies at regional and global scales. This book aims to analyze the challenges and opportunities facing past and future innovations for environmental sustainability in China and India against their respective backdrops.

This book provides interdisciplinary perspectives through examining (a) the environmental impacts and future requirements of ecosystem services from the process of rapid economic growth that has characterized the recent economic history of China and India, and (b) the unfolding dynamics and dilemmas of the era of environmental challenges expressed as water scarcity, river and coastal pollution, degradation of forests and grasslands, and loss of biodiversity in the two most populous countries and fastest growing economies of the world. Various contributions to this book explore the progress and prospects of thinking differently and innovatively in China and India at diverse scales about ecologically sustainable, socially just, and culturally appropriate alternatives to growth-oriented models of social futures, ideas of modernization, and the role of knowledge in achieving it.

I am delighted to see the publication of this timely and productive book, *Environmental Sustainability from the Himalayas to the Oceans: Struggles and Innovations in China and India*. I thank the authors for publicizing their new research findings on environmental sustainability from Himalayan grasslands to the coastal areas, linked by Himalayan rivers, rural and urban landscapes in China and India. This book provides a compendium of information and insights that will prove

very useful in promoting environmental sustainability in these two large countries of Asia and other countries worldwide facing similar environmental challenges. I recommend this important publication to researchers, planners, policy makers, students, and public organizations concerned about environmental sustainability at local, regional, and global levels.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'zhifeng yang' followed by a stylized mark.

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Environmental Sustainability from the Himalayas to the
Oceans

Struggles and Innovations in China and India

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2017, XX, 258 p. 78 illus., 74 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-44035-4