

Urban Sustainability

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Harnessing Urban Innovation to Unlock the Sustainable Development Goals

 Springer

Urban Sustainability

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Ali Cheshmehzangi · Nicholas You · José Siri ·
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For all 15 project owners of this book and their diligent and dedicated leaders and team members—located in 14 countries: Denmark, the Netherlands, Senegal, Austria, India, Indonesia, Australia, Madagascar, Lebanon, China, Brazil, Ecuador, South Africa, and the USA.

We collectively dedicate this book to those scholars, practitioners, and activists who work restlessly on implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 is not far away, and we hope they achieve higher targets and goals.

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We collectively acknowledge the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation and their team for their full support and dedication in making this book project happen. We thank the competition entry participants, the critique panel members, and the respected external reviewers of the Fifth Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation, which was held in 2020. We acknowledge the organizing host in Guangzhou and all sponsors who dedicated time and effort for making the event a reality during the unprecedented times of the pandemic. We confirm all materials are provided to us, and the book is entirely based on our enduring relationship with the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation. We sought the institute's permission before editing the original materials for this book publication. We are sincerely thankful for their continuous support. In this regard, we also thank all 15 project/initiative owners and award winners of the 2020 event (see Chap. 2 for details) for their hard work, materials, and excellent projects. We hope their projects and/or initiatives continue positively impacting their respective society and become innovative pathways for places elsewhere. Their innovations to achieve the SDGs inspire many, and we hope their aspirations remain alive, proactive, and impactful. They truly have some great leaders and members, and we hope they can continue to make a genuine impact on societies worldwide. Their efforts are highly appreciated, and we can only thank them for their support in this whole process.

We also thank Ms. Tong Zou, now at the University of Bologna, Italy, for her contributions to Chap. 1 of the book. She will likely achieve higher goals as “her efforts resemble more inspiring trajectories”.

We also acknowledge the subsequent work and support of team members in providing materials, collecting data, and attending events and workshops of this collaborative work. Lastly, we acknowledge contributions and full support from our team members in six different locations.

About This Book

This book is the first attempt to explore the nexus between urban innovation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It puts together global examples of urban innovation initiatives, highlighting practical, policy-oriented, social, and technological interventions. The case studies are divided into four clusters of “green cities”, “inclusive cities”, “resilient cities”, and “healthy cities”. In doing so, the book maps various global examples of urban innovation for sustainable pathways and directions. It also highlights means of implementation of tool and technologies, data, financing, and governance. The overarching aim is to provide a holistic overview of urban innovation-sustainable development nexus, which would help future policy development, paradigm shifts, and technological applications.

By summarizing a selection of successful initiatives, interventions, and projects, this book highlights how urban innovation could accelerate achieving SDGs. The lessons learned from each case study cluster are narrated as knowledge transfer platforms for future city development and achieving sustainable development. These lessons will be beneficial to practitioners and governments, as well as researchers and academics who are interested in urban innovation research. City case studies included in the book are based on their success stories as role models for other cities in developed and developing nations. This collection helps us portray a more holistic image of urban innovation aligned with the SDGs and pathways to achieving them.

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