Acknowledgements

It has been a great pleasure and intellectual adventure compiling this book on how universities can better contribute to regenerative sustainable development, that is, social and technological transformation for improving both environmental conditions and human quality of life. I hope that this enriching and formative experience of working in such a diverse, open and highly motivated team can be shared at least to some extent with our readers. The diversity of our team spans disparate geographic, organizational and disciplinary cultures. Our group of case authors from four continents argues from diverse academic perspectives, such as architecture, engineering, human geography, organizational sociology and Science and Technology Studies (STS). Some authors are practising architects, managers or engineers, and others focus on research and education at universities. Each perspective frames the purpose of living laboratories as a long run experiment allowing the emergence of new technologies and social orders reducing anthropogenic energy and material fluxes in practice. Each chapter however conceives of knowledge-production processes, and the places and networks they are embedded in, in a different manner.

The common ground amongst our author team is that all are personally engaged in fostering transformation for sustainable development of campus, the university and society at large. All are members of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), which serves as a platform for exchange amongst universities on how to become more effective in this novel feat of promoting such transformation.

This book could not have happened without personal encounters and vivid exchanges at the conferences and symposia organized by Bernd Kasemir and colleagues from the ISCN Network, starting with the ISCN Symposium at the World Expo in Shanghai 2010 in the Luxembourg Pavillion, co-organized by the University of Tongji and the University of Luxembourg with funding also from the Luxembourg Fonds National de la Recherche. The ISCN is largely supported from the Swiss public research funds for the ETH Domain.

I am also grateful for the open and constructive work environment at the University of Luxembourg, and in particular Rolf Tarrach, President of the University of Luxembourg and Christian Schulz, Head of the
Research Unit ‘Identités, Politiques, Sociétés, Espaces’, who always gave their full support for my very active engagement in this international project. The possibility to switch perspectives between considering more general issues of international salience and generating local meaning in Luxembourg, and between the academic perspective and practical applications on campus that my double role in research and in the administration requires really helped in making sense of complex interconnections and differences between local and global aspects of social and technological change. The continued exchange with Jerome Ravetz and John Robinson on evolving theory and practice about complex sustainability issues, local or abstract, be it in the development of courses or research also influenced the writing of this book significantly.

Without Danielle Schwirtz-Lejeune who acts as social hub for all who work for the University of Luxembourg Cell for Sustainable Development, and who also provided invaluable practical and moral support in preparing the manuscript, this book could not have been compiled as it is.

Laurine, Brigitte and Dieter König, by their strong presence in my life and by sharing their enthusiasm for my work, have always been a major source for the creativity and perseverance necessary to guide the emergence of a team product such as this book.

Ariane König, Luxembourg, 28 January 2013