
Preface

Environmental technology management as a field of research and practice requires people who are committed to making the planet Earth a better place than the current prevailing unsustainable way of using natural resources, generating enormous amounts of often harmful and dangerous waste and showing little concern about local communities and individual people. This process of transformation is what the *International Handbook on Environmental Technology Management* is about. It contains an elaborate selection of writings by people most of whose names are easily recognizable not only in the academic world but also in the business realm because of their practically oriented work. They have been able to cross the boundaries of disciplines, organizations, countries and cultures to build the hope for a healthier, smarter and more pleasant way of bringing together the economic, social and environmental facets of our activities.

The power of this *Handbook* is in what it aspires to achieve and give to the readers. There are at least five ways in which it can be a valuable resource. First, it provides expert insights through the analyses, reflections and practical examples of the 58 contributors from ten countries and four continents. Second, it covers a wide range of aspects related to the management of technology and its environmental implications. Third, it is a rich source of reference in order to understand the changes that have been happening in the last decade and the way academic thinking has evolved. Fourth, the ideas and concepts presented here have a strong practical orientation and the readers should be able to take them to the real world. Fifth, it offers an enjoyable and thought-provoking read for people with a wide range of interests, including researchers, students, practitioners, policy-makers and members of the public.

Personally, it has been my pleasure and honour to work on the *Handbook* and I feel beholden to thank all the contributors for the excellent quality of their work, their passion for the outstanding job they are doing and their most obliging cooperation with the editors. The publishers at Edward Elgar have been extremely generous with their support and patience, for which they have my gratitude. My two co-editors also deserve a special mention, as they are both exceptional people who manage to break out of the ivory towers of academia and link research and policy development in the real world.

The whole area of sustainability is impossible to comprehend unless you think about the intergenerational links and this is where I am indebted to my late parents for giving me the love and appreciation of nature, respect and trust in other people and desire to pursue research. My two daughters have had the challenge of experiencing a number of transformations in their young lives and I wish to thank them for their endless love, inspiration and hope for the future. Finally, my thanks for their support and encouragement go to all my relatives in Bulgaria, my colleagues in Australia and my friends all around the world.

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