

Editorial Preface

Circular Economy and Waste Management: Best Practices and Future Trends

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Welcome to the final issue of the *International Journal of Circular Economy and Waste Management* for 2021 (volume 1, issue 1). We have five regular papers in this issue. There are some unusual articles included in this issue, including the Circular Economy, Resilience, and Digital Technology Deployment and the study of Transition to the Circular Economy.

The first paper in this issue is “Resources and Capabilities of SMEs Through a Circular Green Economy” by José G. Vargas-Hernández (University of Guadalajara, Mexico) and Jorge Armando López-Lemus Jorge López-Lemus (University of Guanajuato, Mexico). By making a comprehensive analysis of the circular economy in SMEs and adopting the VRIO framework to determine if the circular economy model could be considered as a viable resource to build competitive advantage. This study presents a Green and Circular Economy (GCE) model from the resources and capabilities of the organization. The authors highlight that the circular economy model helps in an environmental and social context, but it can be used as an internal resource of the company, which may help to build competitive advantage.

Our second paper is “The Circular Economy, Resilience, and Digital Technology Deployment in the Mining and Mineral Industry” by Peter Jones and Martin George Wynn (University of Gloucestershire, U.K.). This paper discussed the circular economy practices and future trends in the mining and mineral industry. Due to the lack of studies in the mining and mineral industry, this study will help to understand the importance of the circular economy in the mining and mineral industry. This article looks at the industry’s approach to the core sustainability concepts of the circular economy and resilience and finds that leading companies in this industry have drawn on the concept of resilience in reporting on their sustainability strategies, but there has been little interest in the concept of the circular economy. The article also assessed the current and potential impact of information and communication technologies in supporting sustainability objectives in the industry. Authors concluded that technological advancement can be a key enabler to support circular economy practices in mining and mineral industry.

Paper number three is “Transition to the Circular Economy: Implications to Program Management” by Ron Schipper (P2, The Netherlands) and Gilbert Silvius (LOI University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands). The paper discussed the circular economy, program management and circular economy model. By applying conceptual mapping, the authors explore and describe the relationship between the circular economy and program management. The study will play a vital role to understand the underlying phenomena. Also, the study will contribute to the literature in the context of program management and the circular economy model.

The fourth research paper is “Cradle-to-Cradle in Project Management: A Case Study” by Aydan Ismayilova and Gilbert Silvius (Wittenborg University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands). This paper discussed a case study of Cradle-to-Cradle design philosophy, which is one of the important circular economy frameworks. The integration of circular practices in businesses creates significant impacts on the entire organizational activities. This study explored the integration of the Cradle-to-Cradle philosophy into project management practices. The study identified most impacted knowledge areas, including resource, integration, quality, communication, and stakeholder management. Further, the study provided an in-depth understanding of the circular economy and their practical implications, which will help firms to adopt sustainable practices in their businesses.

Our final paper is “Water Availability Challenges in Low-Income Areas of Agbowo Community, Ibadan, Nigeria” by Tosin Kolajo Gbadegesin and Olawale Olayide (University of Ibadan, Nigeria). The study determined the gap between water supply and demand and enumerated physical and socio-economic variables that influence water availability. The study was carried in Agbowo Community; it is a low-income urban community in Ibadan North Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The data was collected by using KOBO software -an android based application and used Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software for statistical computations. The authors highlighted that Agbowo community does not have adequate access to clean drinking water. The findings show that due to pollution and scarcity of water, water-borne diseases are increasing. The study noted that a significant number of respondents expressed optimism despite the seriousness of the challenges and recommended massive remediation of the area as most of the water sources are contaminated by sewage.

With our first issue of volume 1, we look forward to the contribution from researchers and practitioners, which will help to bridge the gap between academia and industrialist. Finally, we wish the continuous development of the journal’s reputation in the field of circular economy and waste management.

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