

Preface

Many universities across the world perform state-of-the art research on matters related to climate change, both in respect of mitigation and adaptation. Yet, as shown by the latest 21st Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), held in Paris in December 2015, there is much room for improvements in the role played by universities in the negotiations and in influencing decision-making on a matter of such a global importance.

There are unfortunately relatively few events where a multidisciplinary overview of university-based research efforts and projects on climate change can be showcased, and where researchers from across the spectrum of the natural and social sciences have had the opportunity to come together to discuss research methods, the results of empirical research or exchange ideas about ongoing and future research initiatives focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is against this background that the Symposium “Universities and Climate Change: the Role of Higher Education Institutions in Addressing the Mitigation and Adaptation Challenges” was organised by Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, and HAW Hamburg, Germany, under the auspices of the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP), and was held in Manchester, UK, in September 2016. The event involved researchers in the field of climate change in the widest sense, not only from traditional climate science, but also from the fields of environment, human geography, business and economics, arts, administration and media studies.

This book is one of the outcomes of the event, and focuses on the role of higher education institutions and research centres in addressing the mitigation and adaptation challenges, hence contributing to the further development of this fast-growing field. The aims of this book are as follows:

- I. to showcase the research and projects performed by researchers at universities and research centres from across the world on issues pertaining climate change;
- II. to document and promote ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of research projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice;

III. to introduce methodological approaches and projects which aim to offer a better understanding of climate change across society and economic sectors

This book is divided in two main parts:

- Part I Research and Education on Climate Change Mitigation: in this section, a set of papers addressing mitigation aspects have been compiled, focusing on energy issues as well as on means to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- Part II Research and Education on Climate Change Adaptation: in this section, papers with a strong adaptation component are gathered, illustrating a diversity of means via which adaptation initiatives are implemented.

Whereas the emphasis of the papers in each section is on mitigation and adaptation, respectively, it is noticeable that the borders between the two modalities of response are not very strict and sometimes tend to overlap.

We thank the authors for their willingness to share their knowledge, know-how and experiences, as well as the many peer reviewers, which have helped us to ensure the quality of the manuscripts.

Enjoy your reading!

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