International Summer School on Sustainable University Campuses

Call for Papers

14th-18th September 2015
Torino, Castello del Valentino

www.politoward.polito.it

Human health, the environment and social wellbeing exemplify the challenges of our time. In order to play a key role in addressing these challenges, this summer school focuses its activities on finding solutions that will enhance University resilience, to adapt to major shifts in the environment, economy, and social matters. Thanks to the funding for the internationalisation of research provided by Compagnia di San Paolo, the Politecnico di Torino and the University of Cambridge are being able to carry on a project, namely *politoward*, which aims at fostering international academic collaboration on the theme of Campus Sustainability.

Politoward Summer School provides to all interested researchers an unique opportunity to deal with sustainability-related issues in a theoretical and, above all, practical way.

The composition of the participants will be international, interdisciplinary and intercultural. In addition, distinguished speakers from different universities will provide their expertise. The goal is to offer participants insight into the issues of sustainable development with classical frontal lectures but, above all, to provide a fertile ground for case studies comparison, good practice exchange, innovative methodological approaches. Thus, we aim at boost horizontal group discussion among students, and academic and city representatives. Recalling the "glocalization" concept, by the Japanese *dochakuka*, meant as global process towards new ways of local enhancement, university campuses can be identified as a meeting space between global and local urban scale, and therefore a fundamental resource for the territorial development and its study.

Important dates:

31th March, 2015: abstract submission

9th April, 2015: notification of accepted abstracts

10th April, 2015: introductive Lectio about Sustainability and Energy Use: Examples from Cambridge by Minna Sunikka-Blank, senior lecturer, University of Cambridge

15th July, 2015: full paper submission

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Abstract for consideration must be no longer than 3,000 characters (space included). Please state the session you would like to be included in.

Final contributions must be no longer than 20,000 characters, and may be equipped with photographs, maps and drawings if needed.

All the material must be submitted to
politoward@polito.it

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Best Paper Award
The idea is to see the University Campus no longer as a mere educational establishment, but as a laboratory for promoting innovation and capitalising on the social, economic and environmental value offered by that transformation. The paper which most respond to this challenge will be awarded with a 300€ Amazon voucher!

Best Photo Award
All photo posted to the @politoward Instagram account referring to sustainable campus lifestyles and suggestions will enter a competition to win a Fujifilm Instax Mini 8!

However, campuses too, like city governments, are struggling to realise the opportunities offered by new technologies, social media, and yes, economic crisis, to manage its human capital and energy/materials resources to bring value both to campus users and the related urban context. University's leaders are grappling with these issues, unsure of their expectations or responsibilities if there is no direct and immediate impact on economic and visibility base. Policy makers are often unable to move with the agility and dexterity needed to address these issues. Social expectations around the role of university in society are changing, but the power of social movements and the lack of consensus add greater uncertainty to already volatile business environments, and political contexts. We believe that this is an ideal time to provide a forum to discuss fundamental university-based issues along the "living lab" model in various research fields responding to questions such:

•How should universities rediscover their business models to succeed in a world with scarcer educational motivation, energy resources scarcity and more keen on producing "things" rather than knowledge?
•What types of management innovation could allow universities to improve simultaneously their financial as well as environmental, social, and governance performance?
•What could be a new urban model to navigate and lead a resilient university campus in the future?
•What is the role of the human factor vs ICT in shaping up resilience in the built environment?
•Which are the actions to be set and develop to improve the user awareness on sustainability issues?
•Which are virtuous examples in the management of real estate, waste, energy, land use, food, material, transportation, water and community within a university campus?

With these issues in mind, the proposed three sessions for papers and/or poster presentation are:
Session I: Research and knowledge transfer,
gathering topics on the University's third mission, e.g. adding value through partnerships, fulfilling a valuable mandate, stimulating the economy with spin-offs, influence on a sustainable future, etc.
Session II: Society and outreach,
exploring way of engaging with the public, industry and society, interacting with the interested public, informing government support, etc.
Session III: Campus and environment,
proposing the ultimate strategies for reducing campus emissions, optimising buildings and operations, conserving energy, redirecting waste, water and food management, promoting more sustainable campus lifestyles, responsible purchasing, ICT enabling social innovations, innovating a green mobility, etc.

For more information on the whole project, please visit
www.politoward.wordpress.it
or drop a line to
politoward@polito.it