

Special Issue

Impacts of COVID-19 on the Sustainability of Engineering Industries and National Economies

Message from the Guest Editors

COVID-19 has far more severe effects than other past health and economic crises. It makes people realize the vulnerabilities of globalization. Many firms have started to pursue localization and regionalization strategies to minimize the disruptions, caused by COVID-19. As a result, many engineering-led industries have been set back in their natural progression of growth; for instance, the construction industry. In contrast, COVID-19-led disruptions have opened doors for many other industries; for instance, the fields of information and communication technology, robotics, and artificial intelligence applications. While these new technological solutions formed the basis of industry 4.0 even before COVID-19 shocked the world, their adoption was somewhat slow and limited, a process which COVID-19 has since expedited. In this context, this Special Issue aims to understand how COVID-19 has reshaped different engineering industries, national economies, industrial configuration, and global value chains, how different industries have evolved to cope with this unprecedented pandemic, and how governments have reacted in terms of policy formulations to help economic actors adapt.

Guest Editors

Dr. S. Joseph Antony

FRSC, School of Chemical and Processing Engineering, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK

Dr. Surender Munjal

Business School, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
sustainability@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Steve W. Lyon

School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State University,
Columbus, OH 43210, USA

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