

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.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 October 2023)



Sustainability

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7



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