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Special Issue on

Aligning Finance and Economics with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Guest Editors

Afzalur Rahman

Syed Hasan Jafar

Vivien Csapi

András Takács

Tamás Sebestyén

Sazzad Parwez

Yousuf Malik

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Guest Editors

Afzalur Rahman

School of Business
Woxsen University
Hyderabad 502279
Telangana
India
E-mail: afzalur.rahman@woxsen.edu.in

Syed Hasa Jafar

School of Business
Woxsen University
Hyderabad 502279
Telangana
India
E-mail: sazzad.parwez@woxsen.edu.in

Vivien Csapi

Department of Finance and Accounting
Faculty of Business and Economics
University of Pécs
Pécs 7624
Hungary
E-mail: csapi.vivien@ktk.pte.hu

András Takács

Department of Finance and Accounting
Faculty of Business and Economics
University of Pécs
Pécs 7624
Hungary
E-mail: takacs.andras@ktk.pte.hu

Tamás Sebestyén

Department of Finance and Accounting
Faculty of Business and Economics
University of Pécs
Pécs 7624
Hungary
E-mail: sebestyen.tamas@ktk.pte.hu

Sazzad Parwez

School of Business
Woxsen University
Hyderabad 502279
Telangana
India
E-mail: sazzad.parwez@woxsen.edu.in; svn.pammi@woxsen.edu.in

Yousuf Malik

School of Business
Woxsen University
Hyderabad 502279
Telangana
India
E-mail: yousuf.malik@woxsen.edu.in

FOREWORD

The objective of this special issue titled “Aligning Finance and Economics with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, is to advance scholarly discourse on how financial systems, economic structures, and policy frameworks can be harmonized with the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In recent years, the intersection of finance, economics, and sustainability has emerged as a critical frontier in research and practice, offering new pathways for addressing global challenges such as inequality, climate change, and sustainable economic growth.

This issue seeks to illuminate the pivotal role of finance in driving sustainability transformations — from sustainable and impact finance to inclusive and green financing mechanisms that support equitable development and climate resilience. It further explores how economic policies and institutional innovations can accelerate progress toward the SDGs, emphasizing their multidimensional impacts on poverty alleviation, gender equality, and responsible resource allocation. Additionally, the issue highlights the transformative potential of emerging technologies such as FinTech, artificial intelligence, and blockchain in enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in SDG-aligned financial ecosystems.

The papers included in this issue are extended versions of selected contributions originally presented at the *International Conference on Finance and Economics : Aligning Global Markets with Sustainable Development Goals*. The conference, jointly organized by the Department of Finance and Accounting at Woxsen University (India) and the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Pécs (Hungary), was held online on March

7–8, 2025, wherein we received more than 100 papers which went through a rigorous peer review process after which only 32 papers from researchers covering a wide range of innovative concepts have been selected for publication in this issue. This collaborative event successfully fostered international dialogue on sustainable finance and economics, bridging academic insights with policy relevance and practical implementation. It also laid the groundwork for continued research cooperation in the field.

We, the guest editors, express our sincere gratitude to all authors for their valuable contributions and dedication to advancing the frontiers of sustainable finance and economics. We are thankful to Professor B. K. Dass, Chief Editor, for his constant support and encouragement during the publication process in the *Journal of Information & Optimization Sciences*, published by Taru Publications, New Delhi. Our thanks also extend to the conference chairs, convenors, technical committee members, keynote speakers, and partner institutions whose efforts have been instrumental in shaping this collaborative endeavor.

It is our hope that this special issue will serve as a meaningful contribution to the ongoing global dialogue on integrating SDG-oriented thinking into financial and economic systems, inspiring further research and impactful action towards a more equitable and sustainable future.

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