

2nd „World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities“ (WSSD-U-2014) in Manchester

As from 03 – 05 September 2015 the 2nd „World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities“ (WSSD-U-2014) took place in Manchester, U.K. More than 200 participants from 31 countries discussed the topic of sustainability at universities. Co-organizer Prof. Walter Leal from Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany, highlighted the positive impact of this international conference.

“In times, where lack of money at universities is a major issue, topics like conservation of resources, waste reduction and energy efficiency at universities get more and more important” says Prof. Leal who leads the Research and Transfer Centre “Applications of Life Sciences” at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences.

Scientific research without addressing the topic of sustainability is not possible nowadays. During the conference several scientific approaches were discussed. Furthermore, some very concrete projects, e.g. the European funded project “PLEEC – Planning for energy efficient cities” with Hamburg University of Applied Sciences as a project partner were presented. One of the major aims was to showcase how sustainability can be realized in practice.

The 1st conference of sustainability of this kind took place in 2012, as a side event of the UNCSD Conference (UN Conference on Sustainable Development) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The latter is also known as “Rio+20”. During that conference, common goals in order to fight against hunger, poverty, soil erosion, climate change and its corresponding effects were drafted. “Our symposia help to transfer these ideas to the sphere of influence of universities and higher education institutes” says Prof. Walter Leal. “We can help to push sustainable development from this side”.