



Unconventional Resources and Sustainability

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Driven by concerns over the exhaustion of primary geological resources, the security of supply and the social acceptance of conventional mining, interest in unconventional mineral and energy resources is growing. Such resources potentially include low-grade and complex ores; previously discarded wastes; difficult to access and develop deep underground, seabed and polar deposits; resources in the outer space; and easily available but dispersed stocks accumulated above the ground within modern cities.

Developing unconventional resources can help to expand the resources base and diversify supply, meeting the demand of a growing population and increasing living standards. Yet, it is important to stay within the ecological limits of the planet, and therefore sustainability considerations will be critical in defining the pathway towards the future of resources supply, use and circulation within a modern society.

This Special Issue seeks submissions focusing on the sustainability of developing unconventional resources, from theoretical frameworks to practical case studies and from technical and environmental to broader socio-economic and regulatory aspects.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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