

# Beyond the Limits to Growth (New Ideas for Sustainability from Japan) A Book Review

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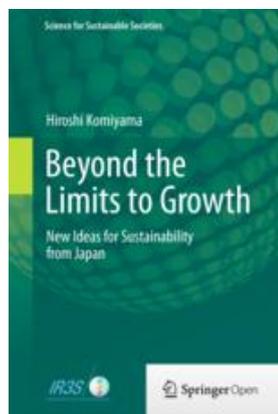
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**Abstract** – The objective of this work is the book “Beyond the Limits to Growth (New Ideas for Sustainability from Japan)”, 978-4-431-54558-3 (Print) 978-4-431-54559-0 (Online), from Springer Series “Science for Sustainable Societies” review.

Books published in this series will be solicited from scholars working across academic disciplines to address challenges to sustainable development in all areas of human endeavors.

This is an official book series of the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) of the University of Tokyo



(<https://www.springer.com/series/11884>).

This book authored by Hiroshi Komiyama (Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc., Tokyo, Japan):

- Provides fresh insights to the challenges of and pathways to sustainable societies,
- Includes a chapter on the realistic development of “platinum societies” that will serve as models for the future,
- Shows how new consumer demand for quality will determine the development of new sustainable technologies in both developed and developing countries.

(<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9784431545583>)

## 1. The review

There is currently a major concern regarding the future of the world, in a sustainable development

perspective. For many, the challenges facing even seem insurmountable, leading to a wave of pessimism will sprawling and progressively installing. It cannot be said justifiably that it is currently the dominant feeling, running up founded risks of this happening in the very near future.

The outlooks presented in this book contrary, most vehemently, that feeling. It is really surprisingly optimistic, but with a reasoned optimism, as shown in the whole text.

Based on the Japanese reality the author, a researcher for many years thought leader in environmental and sustainability issues in Japan and internationally, analyses the most persistent challenges for the achievement of sustainability of economically advanced nations and proposes paths to follow.

Very interesting the way he encourages developed nations to break the current dilemma by actively promoting creative consumer and societal demand. It is described, in very convincing terms, how an active industry-government-academic partnership can provide the adequate environment needed to promote such new creative demand. Its potential is illustrated with the presentation of a

- Platinum Social Network that was launched on a regional basis in 2010 at Japan. It aimed to facilitate common issues solution through the exchange of information and ideas.

The explosive combination of “*exploding knowledge, limited Earth resources, and aging societies*”, problems arising as new 21st century paradigms, that frustrate sustainable development in advanced and developing countries, are also brilliantly approached in this book being given ideas to deal with this situation and overcome the problems

emerging from it.

A particular reference to Chapter 3: “*Vision 2050*” to the Rescue of a “*Limited Earth*” where the second paradigm, “The Limited Earth”, is considered. That is the problems caused by the evidence that Earth is limited. There the model “Vision 2050”, that has been proposed as a solution to three of these issues, namely energy, resources, and global warming, is presented and are given very interesting clues for its implementation

The book is very well organized and written in very good English. Scientifically supported, with interesting examples of practical solutions and relevant data proportionate a very a very enjoyable read that grab the reader causing him to read it in one breath.

## 2. Overall review

This book on sustainable development, authored by a researcher for many years thought leader in environmental and sustainability issues in Japan and internationally, is an exceptional text, scientifically supported, very well written and agreeable to read that approaches in a very clever and optimistic way that issue. Due to the very well achieved conceptual frame, practical examples, new ideas and clues on the

sustainable development subject it can serve as book text in graduate and post-graduate courses. Also indispensable for policy makers, managers and economists. Important for the whole people concerned with Earth future.

## Reference

- [1] H. Komiyama. **Beyond the Limits of Growth** (New Ideas for Sustainability from Japan). Science for Sustainable Societies, Springer Tokyo Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London, 2014, 103 p., ISBN: 978-4-431-54558-3 (Print) 978-4-431-54559-0 (Online). DOI: 10.1007/978-4-431-54559-0.

(This book is based on the Japanese Original by TOYO KEIZAI INC., Tokyo, 2011)