University campuses in Saudi Arabia
Sustainability challenges and potential solutions

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Management in the Built Environment Department
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Research Summary:
Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in higher education specially its physical facilities. The Kingdom is building over 20 new campuses for recently established universities. The construction began with PHASE I by building a couple of colleges in each university. PHASE II, in which other college buildings will be constructed, will be carried out in the near future. The identified research problems in these new campuses are: location and accessibility; environmental considerations; standardisation (uniform design); and finally the demographic changes of the Saudi youth population. This research focuses on the environmental sustainability in campuses in Saudi Arabia. The aim of the research is first to document the great developments in higher education facilities in the Kingdom. Second, it aims to learn more about the environmental sustainability in the-first-phase of college buildings and university campuses. Third, it aims to develop sustainable planning principles as guidance to aid improvement of higher education facilities, saving resources and helping future generations to learn, study and do research in a healthier, smarter and greener environment.

Research Methodology:
The research is divided into three main stages: Exploration, Explanation and Conclusion. In the first stage (Exploration), three steps will be taken: i) Identifying sources, ii) Defining sustainable campuses and analysing assessment tools and systems, and iii) Studying cases in Saudi Arabia through literature review, carrying out observations, distributing questionnaires and doing some interviews with decision makers in 9 cases that are selected based on certain criteria, seven of them are still under construction and two of them are compete and in use. Interviews will include policy makers from the Saudi Ministry of Education – Higher Education. In the second stage (Explanation), three steps will be conducted: i) Redefining the research, ii) Selecting and studying cases from different parts of the world, and iii) Proposing the ‘preliminary guidance’. In the third stage (Conclusion), two final steps will be carried out: i) Validating or testing the proposed guidance through interviewing Saudi and non-Saudi experts, and ii) Conclusion and recommendations.

Key Publications: