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PRESS RELEASE

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UI GreenMetric Awards 2024: Amplifying Sustainability in Higher Education with Growing Participation and Best Practices

December 12th - Sao Paulo, Brazil - The 2024 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings Results and Awarding Ceremony, hosted by Universidade de São Paulo at the University Council Auditorium, marks a significant milestone in the global recognition of sustainability achievements in higher education. This prestigious event celebrates a remarkable increase in participation, with nearly 300 new universities joining this year compared to last year. It also highlights the growing commitment of higher education institutions worldwide for playing a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future.

The Chairperson of UI GreenMetric, Prof. Riri Fitri Sari, celebrates this new achievement, stating, “This year’s numbers mark a significant milestone in our organization’s journey. They underscore not only the enthusiasm of participating institutions, but also the strength of our vision for a more sustainable future.” While appreciating the growing participation, she emphasizes that every institution joining this year is a champion, signalling their commitment to transforming their campuses with more sustainable and environmentally friendly operations.

In 2024 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, notable recognition is given to Wageningen University & Research, which places first by leading through exemplary implementation of the six UI GreenMetric criteria. Wageningen University showcases very strong commitment across all six criteria, topping the charts in the categories of Water Conservation, Waste Management, and Education & Research on Sustainability. Following Wageningen University’s exceptional work are Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom, and the University of Groningen, Netherlands, which rank in the second and third, respectively.

Seven other universities featured in the top 10 for Most Sustainable Universities in the world include University College Cork, Ireland; Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil; Umwelt Campus Birkenfeld (Trier University of Applied Sciences), Germany; University of California, Davis, USA; University of Nottingham, United Kingdom; Università di Bologna, Italy; University of Connecticut, USA.

In addition to the “2024 Most Sustainable University” category, UI GreenMetric also presents awards such as “The Most Active National Coordinator of UI GreenMetric World University Ranking Network” to Universidad El Bosque, Colombia; “The Most Active New Participant University in Latin America” to Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador; “The Best New Participating University” to University of Augsburg, Germany; and “The Most Sustainably Improved University” to Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Saudi Arabia.

Gary S. May, Chancellor of the University of California, Davis, expresses his gratitude, stating, “Sustainability is not merely a goal, but a core value and a practice integrated into every aspect of our campus. We are currently advancing the Big Shift initiative to reduce our environmental impact, as UC Davis aspires to set an example for other universities in the future.”

This year 1,477 universities from around the world participate in the UI GreenMetric Rankings, including higher education institutions from 11 new countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Libya, Niger, South Korea, Uganda, and Yemen. The inclusion of these nations highlights the growing global commitment to sustainability. These collective efforts underscore the vital role universities play as the global leaders in driving behavioural changes within campus communities and shaping a more sustainable future.

Prof. Giovanni Molari of Università di Bologna shares his pride in being recognized as the most sustainable university in Italy and among the top 10 globally. “This award is a testament to our commitment to create a greener future, but it also challenges us to achieve even more in the years ahead. We have implemented numerous programs supporting the vision of sustainability, encouraging individuals to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives,” he said.

Prof. Dr. Sabine Doering-Manteuffel, President of the University of Augsburg, emphasizes the impact of the Green Campus unit. “This success goes beyond effective management. It is a well-structured strategy integrating environmental responsibility and academic excellence.” She continues by concluding that, “Joining UI GreenMetric means becoming part of a global community of universities committed to sustainability with numerous joint programs annually. We look forward to many opportunities to continue growing together.”

Dr. Junaidi, S.S., M.A.

Vice-Chair of UI GreenMetric World University Rankings

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