Affordable and clean energy is one of the critical sustainability goals of the U.N. charter. The sufficiency in energy does have a profound influence on the quality of life of people in that society. The development of society and/or countries heavily depends on generating and sustaining the population’s energy needs. One of the critical aspects of energy sustainability is avoiding wastage. On average, 35% of energy is wasted in homes, and around 30% is wasted in the industries! However, the humongous development in electronics, communications, embedded systems, and intelligence at the edge is spearheading the innovations to make the world smarter and efficient.

This revolution has been powered by the Internet of Things (IoT), which is a crucial enabler. The energy sector is gaining a lot to minimize losses, making the environment intelligent and comfortable for people while energy-efficient. IoT is modernizing applications from marine monitoring to outer space exploration even. However, the complicated operations, such as device interconnection, data transmission, and service optimization, will consume substantial energy. Thus the IoT being a tool to reduce waste and increase efficiency, should be significantly energy efficient.

While IoT contributes to all other aspects of human lives and the environment, the massive growth in the IoT domain needs to be sustainable. Thus making IoT greener is an essential aspect that researchers need to work on. Further, the limited energy storage of IoT devices is also a big challenge. To improve architectural sustainability and ultimately reduce systemic cost, the greenness in IoT design has become more prominent. With the continuous penetration of advanced information and communications (ICT) technologies (such as VR/AR, UAVs, and automobiles), our smart world is being surrounded by big IoT data that crave significantly for energy-efficient caching, computing, networking, and security.

Some emerging techniques (e.g., edge computing, SDN/ICN, artificial intelligence) are envisioned to have promising ability to bring novel approaches to overcome the sustainability limitations of current IoT systems. However, how to fully utilize these techniques from communication, data processing, and computing, etc., to improve the energy efficiency of IoT still faces many fundamental challenges. Some open issues require immediate studies: How can we achieve much higher energy efficiency of the IoT network with limited bandwidth provisioning and low transmit power? How can we utilize advanced capabilities of IoT, such as in-network storage and caching, offload the IoT data to release the traffic scale in the cellular networks and provide low-latency IoT services in an energy-efficient manner?

Can we leverage recent advances in computing to design an energy-efficient computing platform for IoT? How can we create lightweight security schemes such as encryption to reduce the energy consumption of a secure IoT network?

We took off with many more questions, and our focus in bringing this special issue was to challenge the researchers in the community. We received many original to quality submissions with novel contributions on Green IoT, from energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption. Contributions by the applications of emerging technologies (e.g., social computing, big data computing, fog computing, edge computing, emotional computing, SDN) to address the greenness issues of IoT. There were many contributions, and it was tedious to select only some of them. We are eventually publishing two special issues on the Green IoT topic. We are here with the first edition of the special issue. The selected papers under various categories have been grouped, and their contributions are summarized here to benefit the readers.

Physical Layer & MAC: Physical layer and MAC are the basic communication layers, and making it efficient is an important task. Backscatter communication has been one of the most scalable and almost maintenance-free IoT systems. It finds a lot of use in massively deployed IoT sensors. Ahsan et al., “BER Analysis of a Backscatter Communication System With Non-Orthogonal Multiple Access,” have looked into the BER analysis of such a system with non-Orthogonal multiple access in backscatter communication systems. The BER expressions have been considered under various scenarios.

Syed Waqas et al., “Energy-Efficient MAC for Cellular IoT: State-of-the-Art, Challenges, and Standardization,” have thrown light on the important domain of energy-efficient MAC for cellular IoT, and have studied standardization till now and the challenges. This article looks at the big canvas of Low Power WANs and provides their advantages, disadvantages and compares them. Miaowen et al., “Cyclic Delay Diversity With Index Modulation for Green Internet of Things,” have contributed cyclic delay diversity (CDD) with index modulation for green IoT. Specifically, the authors have looked into increasing spectral efficiency. The potential of CDD has been exploited in the IoT domain making it computationally less complex.
**Networking:** The networking layer is the most studied part of IoT systems and applications. Several research directions have emerged and this is one of the most interesting areas under IoT. Stable election protocol which is distance aware as well as energy-efficient has been looked into by Afia Naeem et al. “DARE-SEP: A Hybrid Approach of Distance Aware Residual Energy-Efficient SEP for WSN.” IoT devices are often energy-constrained and thus the residual battery aware management of the network is an important task. Energy efficiency in WSNs has been studied for the last two decades, but still, many issues are prevailing. Cluster head selection is one of the crucial aspects but making the selection more stable is also important. Diya et al., “SEC2: A Secure and Energy Efficient Barrier Coverage Scheduling for WSN-Based IoT Applications,” looked into secure and energy-efficient scheduling for WSNs. A cluster ensemble scheme is proposed to secure a barrier from malicious attacks while preventing QoS degradations. Though clustering is a means to solve the energy efficiency issue and thereby increasing the lifetime, one of the meta problems is to define the optimal radius of the clusters. Kapal Dev et al., “Optimal Radius for Enhanced Lifetime in IoT Using Hybridization of Rider and Grey Wolf Optimization,” have proposed optimal clustering with hybridization of rider and Grey Wolf optimization. A hierarchical energy-efficient service selection has been studied by Endong et al., “A Hierarchical Energy Efficient Service Selection Approach With QoS Constraints for Internet of Things.” The service-oriented architecture is most apt for selections of services when the IoT devices are deployed in large numbers. An IoT device can indeed be used for multiple services and thus a proper selection and faster convergence at yet energy efficient is the requirement of the day. The authors also consider the service selection under QoS constraints.

**Resource Allocation:** Energy efficiency needs to be in every domain as we have seen above. The data centers account for 2% of the world’s energy and each data center uses at least 100MW of energy. Thus it is important to make data centers efficient. Zhou et al., “AFED-EF: An Energy-Efficient VM Allocation Algorithm for IoT Applications in a Cloud Data Center,” look into the Virtual Machine (V.M.) allocation in Data Centres. Yuzhe et al., “SSUR: An Approach to Optimizing Virtual Machine Allocation Strategy Based on User Requirements for Cloud Data Center,” have also proposed an optimization strategy to allocate V.M.s considering the user requirements. This is one of the hard problems since QoS should be considered while energy spent needs to be reduced. Abdulhamid et al. proposed privacy-aware R.F. spectrum reservation for virtualization of IoT “Energy-Efficient Multivariate Privacy-Aware RF Spectrum Reservation in Wireless Virtualization for Wireless Internet of Things.” This work directly relates to QoS expected from deployed large-scale IoT devices.

**Monitoring Applications:** IoTs are mainly used for data gathering and many associated applications. Efficient data storage and transmission is an important role in green IoT. IoT is being used in various scenarios. An interesting application of monitoring river water pollution is presented in “An Energy-Efficient River Water Pollution Monitoring System in Internet of Things” by Swathi et al. We know that one of the biggest and holy rivers of India was polluted heavily and technology interventions have been used to slowly get the glory of the almost lost river by proposing an energy-efficient monitoring system applying deep neural network and long-range communication technology. Cache management in an energy harvesting Device to device communication in a cellular network is studied by Yue et al. “Cache- and Energy Harvesting-Enabled D2D Cellular Network: Modeling, Analysis and Optimization.” Cache hit probability and successful transmission probability were studied under three modes using stochastic geometry. The authors show an increase in the caching efficiency using their two probabilistic caching strategies. Caching saves energy by avoiding repetitive transmissions by the base stations. Xumei et al., “An Integral Data Gathering Framework for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Systems in Green IoT,” propose a data gathering framework for supervisory control in SCADA networks. Interestingly the authors look into both optimizing the selection of the node with the least energy consumption as an aggregator and then UAVs for data collection from the SCADA networks. Radar/optical visual sensing has been one of the interesting topics that are bringing multidisciplinary aspects of IoT. Visual data reconstruction when many UAVs are involved is studied by Mohammad et al. “BL-ALM: A Blind Scalable Edge-Guided Reconstruction Filter for Smart Environmental Monitoring Through Green IoMT-UAV Networks.” The authors propose a newer version of a non-linear blind edge-guided spatial filter based on linear minimum mean square error estimation (LMMSE).

**Learning and Edge Computing:** Machine Learning (ML) has been one of the recent and popular research topics. Further, edge computing is very close to the area of IoT. For various applications and scenarios where large-scale IoT devices are deployed, ML at the edge is very useful but it also throws a lot of challenges. Energy-efficient intelligent edge computing has been the focus of many leading researchers currently. Tan et al., “Latent Discriminative Low-Rank Projection for Visual Dimension Reduction in Green Internet of Things,” proposed a latent discriminative low-rank projection (LDLRP) method for visual dimension reduction. Data self-expressiveness model is developed using low-rank and discriminative similarity relations of data. Reducing the data dimension directly helps in reducing the energy. The Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) is one of the main pillars of the Industry 4.0 revolution. Reduction in energy consumption is usually done by optimizing task scheduling without taking into account a load of computing and energy for data transmission. Ning et al., “Deep-Green: A Dispersed Energy-Efficiency Computing Paradigm for Green Industrial IoT,” have proposed Deep-Green a distributed energy-efficient computing paradigm for the IIoT. The authors propose joint optimization of computing and network resources by merging data transmission and data processing at the edge. A computation reuse architecture at the edge called CoxNet has been proposed by Zouhir et al. “CoxNet: A Computation Reuse Architecture at the Edge.” Authors propose to reuse the output of the past computations when the inputs are similar and show that 66% execution time
can be reduced with CoxNet. Lastly, Laisen et al., “Intrusion Detection in Green Internet of Things: A Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient-Based Algorithm,” propose an algorithm for intrusion detection by analyzing the behavior of the attackers before they invade the network. Finding these behaviors and learning them before can indeed protect the IoT network and the privacy of the users. The authors propose deep reinforcement learning to analyze the network traffic before an attack.

We feel that this special issue will trigger more focused research on various aspects of IoT that were hitherto not looked into. We do hope that the articles also induce more collaborative work during the situation caused by COVID-19. Finally, we wish every one of our IEEE family very good health and safety during this pandemic. Together we can bring innovation in various domains of Communication and Networking with an eye on energy.

Ranga Rao Venkatesha Prasad (Senior Member, IEEE) received the Ph.D. degree from IISc, Bengaluru, India, in 2003. During the Ph.D. research, a scalable VoIP conferencing platform was designed. Many new ideas including a conjecture were formulated and tested by developing an application suite based on the research findings. The work involved an understanding of network protocols, application design, and human–computer interface. His thesis work led to a startup venture, Esqube Communication Solutions. He was leading a team of engineers developing many real-time applications including bridging anonymous VoIP calls called Click-to-Talk for Ebay.com. While at Esqube, eight patent applications and three PCT applications were filed along with my colleagues. Esqube was selected as top 100 IT innovators in India in 2006 by NASSCOM and top 100 in promising companies in Asia by RedHerring in 2008. He has been an Associate Professor with the Embedded Software Group, Delft University of Technology since 2013. His research interests are in the area of tactile Internet, Internet of Things (IoT), cyber–physical systems, energy harvesting, and 60-GHz millimeter-wave networks. He has supervised 18 Ph.D. students (15 graduated and three ongoing) and more than 40 M.Sc. students (36 graduated). He has participated in several European and Dutch national projects in the area of IoT, 60-GHz communications, smart-energy systems, personal networks, and cognitive radios. He has (co)authored more than 200 publications in the peer-reviewed international transactions/journals and conferences. He was responsible for the signing of an MoU between IISc-TUDelft. From 2005 to 2012, he was a Senior Researcher and an Adjunct Faculty Member with T.U. Delft working on the EU FP7 Magnet (and Beyond) Project and the Dutch Project PNP-2008 on Personal Networks and Future Home Networks. In 2015, he received 4TU University Teaching Qualification Diploma with Distinction. He has served on the editorial board of many international journals and magazines, including IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON GREEN COMMUNICATION NETWORKS, IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATIONS, IEEE Communication Magazine, IEEE SURVEYS AND TUTORIALS, and Communication Networks (Elsevier). He is a regular reviewer for many prestigious journals and conferences and serves as the TPC member for various conferences. He was nominated as the Vice-Chair of the IEEE Tactile Internet Standardization Group. For his excellent research contributions, he was selected as the IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer on Internet of Things from 2016 to 2018. He is also a Senior Member of ACM.
Shahid Mumtaz has more than 12 years of wireless industry/academic experience. He has been with the Instituto de Telecomunicações since 2011, where he currently holds the position of Principal Researcher and adjunct positions with several universities across the Europe–Asian Region. He is the author of four technical books, 12 book chapters, 250+ technical papers (160+ journal/transaction, 90+ conference, and two IEEE best paper awards) in mobile communications.

Dr. Mumtaz is a recipient of the IEEE ComSoC Young Researcher Award, the Founder and the Editor-in-Chief of *IET Journal of Quantum Communication*, the Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Alexandria Engineering Journal* (Elsevier), the Vice-Chair of Europe/Africa Region—IIEEE ComSoc: Green Communications & Computing Society, and the Vice-Chair for IEEE Standard on P1932.1: Standard for Licensed/Unlicensed Spectrum Interoperability in Wireless Mobile Networks. He is an IET Fellow, an IEEE ComSoc, and an ACM Distinguished Speaker.

Varun G. Menon (Senior Member, IEEE) received the Diploma degree in training and development, the M.B.A. degree in human resource management, the M.Sc. degree in applied psychology, the M.Tech. degree (with University First Rank) in computer and communication, and the Ph.D. degree in computer science and engineering. He is currently an Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of Computer Science Engineering, and International Collaborations and Corporate Relations in charge with the SCMS School of Engineering and Technology, India. His research interests include sensor technologies, Internet of Things, green IoT, wireless communication, fog computing, and networking. He received the Top Peer Reviewer Award by Publons in 2018 and 2019. He is currently an Associate Editor of *Physical Communication, IET Networks, and IET Quantum Communications*, a Series Editor of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, and a Technical Editor of *Computer Communications*. He is currently the Guest Associate Editor of IEEE JOURNAL OF BIOMEDICAL AND HEALTH INFORMATICS, IEEE INTERNET OF THINGS JOURNAL, and IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON GREEN COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING. He has served as the Guest Associate Editor for IEEE Internet of Things Magazine, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRY INFORMATICS, and Journal of Supercomputing. He is also currently serving on the review boards of many high-impact factor journals, including IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, and *IEEE Communications Magazine*. He has served over 20 conferences, such as IEEE ICC, IEEE CAMAD 2021, IEEE ICC 2020, EAI SmartGov 2021, ICCCN 2020, IEEE COINS 2020, SigTelCom, ICACCI, and ICDMAI in leadership capacities, including the Program Co-Chair, the Track Chair, the Session Chair, and a Technical Program Committee Member. He is a Distinguished Speaker of the Association of Computing Machinery.

Anwer Al-Dulaimi received the Ph.D. degree in electrical and electronic engineering from Brunel University, London, U.K., in 2012. He is a System Engineering Specialist with the Research and Development Department, EXFO, Toronto, Canada. He is the Editor of IEEE 5G Initiative Series in *IEEE Vehicular Technology Magazine*, an Associate Editor of *IEEE Communication Magazine*, and an Editor of Vehicular Networking Series in *IEEE Communication Standards Magazine*. He is the Chair of IEEE 1932.1 Working Group “Standard for Licensed/Unlicensed Spectrum Interoperability in Wireless Mobile Network.”
Mohsen Guizani received the B.S. (with Distinction) and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in computer engineering from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA, in 1984, 1986, 1987, and 1990, respectively. He is currently a Professor with the Computer Science and Engineering Department, Qatar University. Previously, he served in different academic and administrative positions with the University of Idaho, Western Michigan University, the University of West Florida, the University of Missouri–Kansas City, the University of Colorado Boulder, and Syracuse University. He is the author of nine books and more than 500 publications in refereed journals and conferences. His research interests include wireless communications and mobile computing, computer networks, mobile cloud computing, security, and smart grid. He has guest edited a number of Special Issues in IEEE journals and magazines. Throughout his career, he received three teaching awards and four research awards. He also received the 2017 IEEE Communications Society WTC Recognition Award as well as the 2018 AdHoc Technical Committee Recognition Award for his contribution to outstanding research in wireless communications and ad hoc sensor networks. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of IEEE NETWORK, serves on the editorial boards of several international technical journals, and is the Founder and the Editor-in-Chief of the Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing (Wiley). He has also served as a TPC member, the chair, and the general chair of a number of international conferences. He was the Chair of the IEEE Communications Society Wireless Technical Committee and the Chair of the TAOS Technical Committee. He served as an IEEE Computer Society Distinguished Speaker and is currently an IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer. He is a Senior Member of ACM.