Selected Papers from the Fourth International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology Held in Houston, Texas, July 28–31, 2008

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The International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology is an annual conference meeting of engineering and science professionals from academia, government, and industry from around the globe. The fourth conference was held in Houston, Texas, on July 28–31, 2008. The objective of the International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology is to provide a major interdisciplinary forum for presenting new approaches from relevant areas of environmental science and engineering, to foster integration of the latest developments in scientific research into engineering applications, and to facilitate technology transfer from well-tested ideas into practical products, waste management, remedial processes, and ecosystem restoration. Environmental humanity and sociality such as environmental ethics, environmental law, environmental economy, and environmental management were also included in the scope of the conference. Researchers, engineers, site managers, regulatory agents, decision-making officials, consultants, and vendors benefited from the opportunity to exchange information on recent research trends, to

examine ongoing research programs, and to investigate worldwide public and regulatory acceptance of environmental protection and remediation technologies. Environmental disturbance and pollution are complex problems worldwide. The current development of modern science and technology combined with management on social and economic activities are contributing more and more to solution of the problems. Although considerable environmental protection work has been and is presently being conducted, a multidisciplinary platform for environmental scientists, engineers, management professionals, and governmental officials to discuss the latest developments in environmental research and applications is very helpful for protecting our global village. During the Fourth International conference, presentations from the following countries were presented: Americas: Brazil, Mexico, Canada, and USA; Europe: France, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Italy, Russia, and Switzerland; Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa; Asia: China, Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Japan, Korea, Israel, Turkey, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. We also had attendees from Australia and New Zealand.

The conference started by four plenary presentations given by well-known professors in selected areas of research and then parallel sessions were conducted to accommodate the various accepted

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papers. Technical presentations on a broad range of environmental topics, i.e., surface water quality, drinking water, wastewater treatment, soil remediation, air quality, water resources, recycling, restoration of ecosystems, bio-accumulation, microbial degradation, modeling, metals, global topics, remote sensing, analytical techniques, education, and sustainable development were presented by scientists and engineers from around the world. The conference was chaired by Dr. George A. Sorial (University of Cincinnati). Recent developments in research, engineering practice, and regulations were exchanged through oral and poster presentations. Conference attendees had a unique opportunity to communicate with world-class scientists about research ideas, to exchange environmental management experience with international peers, to seek project partners, to discuss possible collaboration with other delegates, and to build solid long-term partnership relations with worldwide professionals face-to-face. A total of 400 abstracts were received and reviewed, and 110 papers were accepted for oral presentation, and 35 papers were accepted for poster presentation at the conference.

Full papers and extended abstracts for the 110 papers were published in the CD conference proceedings. Selected papers have undergone peer-review. Sixteen selected papers have undergone peer-review and are published in this special issue. Each paper received at least two reviews from the external referees and the Guest Editor.

The sixteen papers included in this special issue address the following thematic areas for pollution abatement: Air Quality Assessment (Godoi et al. 2009a, b); Transport of Air Pollutants and Control Techniques (Likuku 2009; Vanoye and Mendoza 2009); Water Resources Assessment (Masih et al. 2009); Industrial Wastewater Biotreatment (Chen et al. 2009); Drinking Water (Srinivasan and Sorial 2009; Yigit and Inan 2009); Physicochemical Waste Water Treatment (Yu and Kupferle 2009); Metal Distribution and Remediation (Padmavathiamma and Li 2009); Bio-Assessment and Toxicology (Badea et al. 2009); Landfill, Recycling, and Phytoremediation (Ma et al. 2009); Wetlands and Sediments (Gaboutloeloe et al. 2009); Environmental Planning and Management (Kazakov and Utkin 2009); Solid Waste Management (Ramos et al. 2009); and Ecosystems Assessments and Restoration (Chakraborty et al. 2009).

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