Special issue on contamination, remediation and health for pollutants in natural aquatic, soil, sediments and atmospheric environments

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The International Environmental Engineering Conference (IEEC 2019) and Annual Meeting of the Korean Society of Environmental Engineers met jointly with the 4th International Conference on Biological Waste as Resources (BWR 2019) at the BEXCO on December 10–13, 2019 in Busan, Republic of Korea. IEEC 2019 aimed to offer a comprehensive platform for researchers, scientists, engineers and policy makers working in the diverse fields of environmental research to exchange their valuable knowledge.

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BWR 2019 also deliberated the state-of-the-art technologies, advanced management strategies and political issues pertaining to treatment, recycling and recovery processes of organic wastes.

More than 1,400 experts and scholars from 23 countries attended the joint conferences. The conferences set up nine special symposia covering a broad range of environmental topics (such as climate technology, renewable and sustainable energy, wastewater technology, energy and resource recovery, wastes treatment and management and soil and groundwater remediation). The joint conferences aimed to catalyze the full integration of all research disciplines, particularly focusing on resources recovery and management.

This special issue collected five research articles and one review paper. Park et al. (2021) reviewed extraction technologies to remediate cesium-contaminated soils and suggested enhanced desorption strategies to increase the removal efficiency of cesium. Basak et al. (2021) determined the fates of potassium and micronutrients from a quarry rock mineral powder. Moon et al. (2021) proposed an iron-based soil-washing technique to remediate lead-, copper- and zinc-contaminated paddy soil. Lyonga et al. (2021) reported a new biochar-based adsorbent derived from food waste for removal of As(III). Kim and Ko (2021) reported on the leaching potential of dissolved organic matters in sediment samples collected adjacent to roads. Finally, Mungruaklang and Iwai (2021) offered

a heuristic vermiwash method to enhance the vermification of swine farm wastewater.

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