

## EDITORIAL

### *Population growth, urbanization and global pollution*

The increasing human population worldwide places immense demands on global water, air and soil resources. Population growth also results in high density human urbanization. High population densities are ideal environments for disease transmission such as influenza, cholera through contaminated water supplies and more recently SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome). Moreover, when infrastructure fails in areas of high population density, a large number of people are affected. High population densities are also possible targets for terrorism as a maximum number of people and infrastructure can be targeted.

The amount of food, water, air and infrastructure (e.g., transit, health care, waste services, fire departments, education, energy, pollution control, security, etc.) to sustain quality living in a large urban location requires highly technological operations and trained personnel. Simply monitoring pollution and conducting surveys are only small components of overall pollution management. If human population growth is not controlled for our common biosphere, then it will be an immense challenge and maybe even impossible in some cases to control global pollution in the future. The international science community through excellence in research, education, service to regulatory agencies and dissemination of knowledge has a central leadership role to play in providing solutions to pollution. *Water, Air and Soil Pollution* welcomes excellent contributions on solutions to environmental pollution that will contribute to the improvement of our common biosphere.

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