

## **Preface of Special Issue**

### **Urban Air Quality and Health Effects**

#### **Second International Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics**

The present special section of this AAQR issue features selected papers presented at the 2nd International Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics (CEMEPE), which was held on the Hellenic island of Mykonos from June 21 to 26, 2009. The conference was organized by the Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Sector of Industrial Management and Operations Research, School of Mechanical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens and the Department of Pollution Control Technologies, Technological Educational Institute of West Macedonia.

The key aim of CEMEPE is the presentation of current issues and problems in environmental science, engineering, economics and management with special emphasis on available solutions and remediation. Furthermore, the encouragement of exchange of ideas and knowledge between diverse groups of the scientific community, (scientists, managers, regulators, policy-makers and academia) who work in the environmental field has always been one of the top priorities of the organizing committee and the ultimate indicator of the conference's ongoing success.

Urban air quality was recognized as one of the most important thematic fields of the conference; a multifaceted problem which requires integrated approaches and tools for every one of its multifactorial aspects. The effects of aerosol and gaseous pollutants on human health, the specific technological challenges of indoor pollution and related issues were represented in several conference contributions. Among the 447 participations, "Air quality" was represented in CEMEPE by 16 original oral and poster participations, with 4 additional ones on the specialized topic of "urban aerosols" and the health effects they may elicit. The present 8 papers included on the current special section represent the most important aspects discussed in the conference in the context of Urban Air Quality and Health effects.

We would like to thank all the authors for their worthy contributions to this special section of Aerosol and Air Quality Research. Furthermore we would like to express our gratitude to Chuen-Jinn Tsai the former Editor-in-Chief for the faith he showed in us, his valuable remarks and his undeterred help as well as the current editor-in-chief Wen-Jhy Lee for his help throughout the handling of manuscripts.

We are also thankful to the anonymous reviewers selected and conducting the review process through the on-line AAQR manuscript submission and handling site for the time and effort they sacrificed in order to ensure high standards for the submitted manuscripts.

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