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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Chemistry and Ecology

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713455114>

Preface

To cite this Article (1992) 'Preface', *Chemistry and Ecology*, 6: 1, vii – viii

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/02757549208035258

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02757549208035258>

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PREFACE

This special issue of Chemistry and Ecology is devoted to the publication of selected papers presented at the first (renamed) International Ocean Pollution Symposium (1IOPS). 1IOPS was held at the Hotel Villa Paraguera, La Parguera, Puerto Rico, 28 April to 2 May 1991. The meeting was hosted by the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus. Symposium co-chairmen were Dr. Manuel L. Hernandez-Avila of the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus and Mr. Alex W. Wypyszinski from the New Jersey Sea Grant College Marine Advisory Service, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.

About 80 participants drawn from 20 countries took part in the symposium. Papers presented included eutrophication, fate, behaviour and toxicity of wastes discharged to the marine environment, including incineration ash and radionuclides, land-based sources of pollutants entering the ocean, marine litter (plastic debris), ocean dumping, pollution in polar seas and in a variety of enclosed seas. In addition, two workshop discussions were part of the programme, one, organized and led by Mr. Alex Wypyszinski, was devoted to marine debris and Gulf and Caribbean experiences with meeting MARPOL ANNEX V and Marine Debris Regulation; the other, organized and led by Dr. Michael Champ, discussed the behaviour, fate and effects of contaminants in polar regions.

The IOPS series is an outgrowth of the International Ocean Disposal Symposium (IODS) series which concluded with the eighth and final meeting in October 1989 in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. Selected papers from 8IODS appeared in Volume 4/4 and 5/1-2 of this journal. Consistent with the objectives of the earlier IODS meetings the IOPS series aims at providing a periodic forum for (1) the exchange of ideas, information and fellowship among the world-wide community of scientists involved with marine pollution processes and ocean waste disposal; (2) formulation of recommendations and guidelines for future studies of ocean disposal practices; and (3) encouraging participation of scientists from developing countries so as to improve understanding of marine pollution and effects and to develop environmentally acceptable practices for marine waste management.

In providing the forum for meeting these objectives, the La Parguera meeting was able to attract a large group of marine scientists from twenty nations, among them participants from several of the Caribbean countries as expected, but also from Canada, Chile, France, India, Ivory Coast, Korea, Malawi, Mexico, the Philippines, the People's Republic of China, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslavia. The occasion of the 1IOPS and slight change of emphasis was timely since the recent UN/GESAMP State of the Marine Environment report has major implications for development of effective strategies for marine pollution prevention, and tightened marine disposal practices are imminent in various regions of the world. The Caribbean itself is an enclosed sea area seriously threatened by pollution; the region provides several case studies pertinent to discussion of control and management of wastes in an area where it is important to develop a common objective between riparian countries, and consistency between operational practices and control.

IOPS would not have been possible without the support of many sponsoring organizations:

Center for Marine Conservation
Department of Marine Sciences and Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program,
University of Puerto Rico
Florida Sea Grant College Program
International Maritime Organisation
Louisiana Sea Grant College Program
National Sea Grant College Program
New Jersey Sea Grant College Program
NMFS Marine Entanglement Research Program
Science Applications International Corporation, USA
US Environmental Protection Agency
US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Waste Management Institute of the State University of New York, Stony Brook.

We hope that these agencies will welcome publication of this special issue, and that they will continue to support future IOPS meetings.

Towards the end of the meeting at La Parguera, speakers were offered the opportunity to publish their presentations in **Chemistry and Ecology**. Many welcomed this initiative and a group of regional sub-editors was formed to correspond with authors and to process the papers submitted to external reviewers. These regional editors have done much, within a tight time-scale, to handle the essential refereeing and revision of papers submitted.

A second IOPS symposium is already in preparation for 1993. The IOPS organising committee has received a formal invitation from the People's Republic of China whose representative Professor Jiaye Zhou participated in IOPS and in previous IODS meetings. More details of 2IOPS will be circulated in due course.

Gwyneth Howells

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