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### Third International Ocean Pollution Symposium, 7-11 April 1997, at Harbor Branch, Fort Pierce, Florida, USA

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## Preface

### **Third International Ocean Pollution Symposium, 7–11 April 1997, at Harbor Branch, Fort Pierce, Florida, USA**

This dedicated issue of **Chemistry and Ecology** contains the selected papers of the Third International Ocean Pollution Symposium (3 IOPS) which was held at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (HBOI), Fort Pierce, Florida, United States of America, on 7–11 April, 1997. The 3 IOPS Chairman was Dr. Tsen Wang, Senior Scientist at HBOI, who provided excellent leadership in assuring a very successful scientific meeting with outstanding conference amenities.

Nearly 100 papers (including posters) were given or shown, with 24 countries being represented at the symposium. The 3 IOPS programme, including the sessions, title/authors of papers, and abstracts can be found at <http://www.fit.edu/~duedall/iops>.

Each author(s) presenting a paper were given the opportunity to submit a manuscript for publication in **Chemistry and Ecology**. Manuscripts submitted were reviewed and then judged as to their acceptability for publication. This book, **Chemistry and Ecology**, Volume 15, provides this response, as soon as it is published, for those who attended the meeting and to others reporting interest.

The Third IOPS would not have been possible without the very kind support from the following sponsors: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC, Paris), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Florida Institute of Technology, and Environmental Information Systems, Inc. We are grateful for their support and enthusiasm.

In addition to Dr. Wang, the following people provided invaluable assistance prior to and during the actual symposium: Eric Annis, Susan Cook, Susan Costilow, Brian Cousin, Mark Duedall, Myron

Gunsalus, Nikki Hoier, John Jansen, Kim Roberts, Sally Shearouse, Chih-Shin Shieh, Charlotte Solon, Dr. Len Solon, Lorraine Sonoda, Dr. R. Lawrence Swanson, and Harry Zhong. The facilities for the organisation, provision of coffee and lunch breaks, local organisation of meetings to see various items and animals at Harbor Branch, and the visit to see some of the local marine studies nearby were provided with enthusiasm and pride. We extend our thanks to Professor T.-C. Hung (Taiwan) and Dr. Ken Collins (UK) who assisted in the manuscript reviews and also to other reviewers who gave freely of their time to comment and criticise the manuscripts.

The mission of the International Ocean Pollution Symposia (IOPS) series is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among the world wide community of scientists involved in marine pollution and ocean disposal research. The IOPS series was originally then called the International Ocean Disposal Symposia (IODS) which began in the mid-1970s under the membership of Dr. P. Kilho Park (U. S. NOAA) and Professor Dana R. Kester (Univ. of Rhode Island, U.S.A.) and focused on the scientific aspects of ocean waste disposal. At the conclusion of the 8 IODS, which was held at Dubrovnik, Croatia, 9–13 October, 1988, under the leadership of Dr. Adam Benovic (Biological Institute of Dubrovnik) and Dr. Velimir Pravdic (Ruder Boskovic Institute, Zagreb), the series name was changed to the International Ocean Pollution Symposium (IOPS). The first IOPS was hosted by Dr. Manuel L. Hernandez-Avila of the University of Puerto Rico, at Mayaguez Campus, on 28 April to 2 May, 1991 (**Chemistry and Ecology**, Volume 7, 1992); second, 2 IOPS was hosted by Qinghua University, Beijing, China and Professor Jiayo Zhou, State Oceanic Administration (Dalian, China) on 4 to 8 October, 1993 (**Chemistry and Ecology**, Volume 10, 1995).

An Intercongress forum to advocate the importance of sustainability in social-economy, public health, natural resources and conservation, environmental and information sciences. Two themes related to IODS are planned: (1) chemical analysis of environmental protection, and (2) APEC Workshop on Chemical Analysis and Assessment of Industrial Wastes in Environments (Air/Water and Soils/Sediments). These will be co-ordinated by Prof. T.-C. Hung will be described in the web site: <http://www.sinica.edu.tw/info/event/psa> 1998.

There seems to be much interest in the work on the marine disposal of materials, their effects on organisms and ecosystems, which will persuade workers in the field to keep them in focus, and further work on new systems of control. The fourth meeting of IOPS is being planned; for more information see future issues of **Chemistry and Ecology** and the <http://www.fit.edu/~duedall/iops>. As 4 IOPS becomes a reality, brochures will be sent to the scientific community. For specific information about 4 IOPS and previous IOPS/IODS contact I. W. Duedall by e-mail: <duedall@fit.edu> or to G. Howells at <Gdhowells@aol.com>.

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