

Preface

This special issue of the “Journal of Hazardous Materials” hosts some of the most interesting and scientifically valuable papers that were presented in the 8th International Conference “Protection and Restoration of the Environment” that was held in Chania of Crete (Greece) during 3–7 July 2006.

This conference represented the 8th of a series of biennial conferences and was organized by the Technical University of Crete, Greece and Stevens Institute of Technology, USA. During the conference around 210 oral and 130 poster presentations were made by acknowledged scientists from all over the world.

The main topics of the Conference were as follows:

- Groundwater and soil remediation—technologies and applications.
- Management and treatment of solid, liquid and gaseous wastes.
- Waste minimization and pollution prevention.
- Protection and restoration of the coastal environment.
- Water resources engineering and management.
- Renewable energy sources—sustainable development.
- Fate and transport of pollutants in the environment.
- Ecotoxicology.
- Environmental impact assessment and risk analysis.

- Global climate change.
- Atmospheric pollution and control technology.
- Environmental legislation and policy.
- Mathematical modelling and systems analysis.

The main output of the conference was that existing knowledge and the growing research on environmental protection and restoration is capable of providing effective solutions to many of today’s environmental problems. However, their adoption and powerful utilization by governments, industries and generally ruling authorities is another issue that has to be arranged in order to achieve real progress on environmental protection.

I would like to thank the co-organizers, the scientific committee, the reviewers, as well as the participants of the conference that greatly contributed in the conduction of a remarkable and interesting conference.

E. Gidaracos*

*Technical University of Crete, Department of Environmental
Engineering, Chania, Crete, Greece*

* Tel.: +30 2821037789; fax: +30 2821037850.

E-mail address: gidarako@mred.tuc.gr

Available online 29 June 2007