
Preface

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Biographical notes: Selahattin Incecik received his doctoral degree in Meteorology at Istanbul Technical University (ITU), and his undergraduate and master degrees from the ITU. He completed Post doctoral studies at the PSU, USA. His research interest is air pollution and meteorological modelling for air quality and transport and dispersion applications, stratospheric and tropospheric ozone. He is co-editor of the NATO air pollution modelling and its applications XVI, and co-editor of Special Issues of *Water, Air and Soil Pollution: Focus, Environmental International and Atmospheric Research Journals*. In addition, he has made a contribution as leading author to the IPCC WMO-UNEP report (2005). He was awarded for his contributing to Nobel Peace Award for IPCC in 2007. He served as Chairman in the Department of Meteorology and now he is responsible for coordinating the Atmospheric Sciences Graduate Program.

Aysel T. Atimtay studied Chemical Engineering at METU and did her MSc work at the Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, USA. She earned her Doctorate also in the area of Chemical Engineering at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey. Her Postdoctorate studies were at Cambridge University, UK. Her research interests are in air pollution assessment and control, energy and environment, waste management, waste minimisation, and biomass utilisation for green energy. She taught for eight years in Tulane University, New Orleans, USA. Presently, she is a Professor in the Environmental Engineering Department of METU (since 1991) and Head of the Air Pollution Laboratory.

Hyo Choi received a BSc from Seoul National University, Korea in Meteorology (1976) and a MSc in Physical Oceanography (1978). Then, he earned a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, USA (1984) in Coastal Meteorology and another PhD from Peking University, China (2004) in Atmospheric Chemistry. He researches Meteorology, Oceanography and Environmental Sciences on severe weather, air pollution modelling, ocean current, associated with universities and institutions in Russia, Japan, Singapore, Australia and USA. He has been President, Korean Environmental Sciences Society and AOGS (Atmosphere), Singapore and Editor-in-Chief of three international journals and Editor of seven others.

This Special Issue of IJEP contains a collection of papers reflecting the content of the Third International Symposium on Air Quality Management at urban, regional and global scales (AQM2005) and the 14th IUAPPA (The International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations) regional conference, held in Istanbul at the end of September 2005. Over 200 scientists participated in this conference representing 35 countries from four continents. The purpose of the symposium was to facilitate sharing of scientific findings, discuss and learn about recent advances, and provide a forum for the timely exchange of information among scientists and policy-makers in the field of air quality. There were 16 topical sessions in the conference. The largest session addressed urban and rural air quality

The papers presented in this Special Issue address urban and rural air quality evaluations. The importance of this topic is its basic condition for human health in urban and rural areas. It is known that air quality is under intensive discussion with a wide range of policy instruments in the world. In spite of the reduced sulphur emissions, however, emission reduction figures for many other substances, as well as aerosols and photochemical air pollutants, are more modest. Many air pollution problems persist because progress in countering these problems is nullified by growth in the economy and traffic.

Furthermore, air quality, its impact on climate change and the prevention of climate change are important topics. The international community has agreed that the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has led to a gradual increase in the Earth's temperature. In terms of the environmental consequences and social implications, the greenhouse problem surpasses all other air quality problems.

The call of papers for this Special Issue was launched in early 2006 and left a relatively broad scope to authors. Only some broad themes that papers could address were suggested. A large number of responses to the call were received. The quality of the papers submitted was also high. These papers were then subjected to a rigorous peer review process, and we hope that they will stimulate further development in this field.

We are very grateful to Inderscience for their willingness to publish the proceedings of the meeting. We are indebted to the authors, reviewers and the members of the editorial board for their support for this volume.