
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Kartik Venkatraman is currently pursuing his PhD in 'Phytocapping of Landfills' at CQ University, Rockhampton, Australia. He obtained a Masters degree in Environmental Science from Bharathi Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune, India and a Masters degree in Environmental Engineering by Research from Griffith University,

Brisbane, Australia. He is a recipient of the Queensland Smart State Award (2005 and 2006) for his research on phytocapping. He has also received the Best Project Award (Regional) and the Sustainable Project Award by Institute of Sustainable Resources (ISR), The Society for Sustainability and Environmental Engineering (SSEE) and Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) (2007). He is also working with the Central Queensland Local Government Association as Coordinator – Technical Services (CQ Waste Management) and is responsible for promoting best management practices for solid waste management amongst regional councils in Central Queensland. He takes part in community service activities, including organising environmental conferences. He has been part of the organising committee of the Environmental Research Event (ERE) 2006 and 2007.

Behnam Fahimnia is a PhD Scholar and Teaching Assistant at the University of South Australia. He graduated with master degree in Advanced Manufacturing Technology at the UniSA in 2006, ranked the top student with High Distinction in all subjects. He has published several papers in national and international conferences and was granted an Achievement Award for his research contributions to the field of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and for proposing quality papers published in *Enformatika Journal* in 2006. He developed the most efficient production plan for PSP Manufacturing Company and was awarded PSPA Golden Prize in 2004.

Adam B. Ruxton received his BE with honours from James Cook University, Australia in 1998. After several years of working in the Australian telecommunications industry, he is now a PhD candidate at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, James Cook University, Australia. His research project is focused on high speed over ocean communications systems. He is also the current Chairperson of the James Cook University Student Branch of the IEEE.

Sheng Fu Fang is a postgraduated in Center for Molecular and Material Sciences, School of pharmacy and Medicine Science, University of South Australia. His research interests focus on advance water and wastewater treatment process such as adsorption and catalytical oxidation of organic compound from water or wastewater.

Othman Al-Mashaqbeh is a PhD student, investigating the performance of filtration media for stormwater treatment. He received a Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering (1994) and a master degree in Civil Engineering/Water and Environment (1997). He is a Researcher at the Water Research Centre/Royal Scientific Society in Jordan since 1998. His research interest is mainly in wastewater treatment (industrial and domestic).

Today with our government emphasis on environmental issues, environmental management to create cleaner surrounding is the order of the day. Environmental pollution arising from solid waste, hazardous waste, wastewater and other sources has brought major concerns globally and locally. This has simultaneously enhanced new developments in management practices and technology to reduce these environmental problems. Many studies are being conducted globally on various new technologies to mitigate these environmental problems.

Five papers represented in this Special Issue of the *International Journal of Environmental Technology and Management* were selected from papers presented at the 10th Environmental Research Event (ERE), Sydney, 10–13 December 2006. The theme of the 2006 ERE was *Environment – Working Together*, promoting collaborative research and a multidisciplinary approach to environmental management; recognising that we all have to work together to address the most pressing environmental issues. These papers in this Special Issue represent important research relating to new and/or alternative technologies to mitigate the environmental issues with regards to landfills, product manufacturing, wastewater, urban run-off and marine ecosystem and the associated new technologies involved in mitigating these environmental issues.

The first paper in this issue by Venkatraman et al. considers Phytocapping; an alternative option to cap the landfills. In this system, the trees act as bio-pumps and the soil as sponge to hold water thereby restricting water infiltration through the refuse and reducing methane gas emission. This paper emphasises on the effectiveness of phytocapping and soil thickness on methane emission from landfills.

The second paper in this issue by Fahimnia et al. discusses Manufacturing Lead-Time (MLT) and its environmental impacts. MLT is the total time required to process a given product through a plant. Long MLT is the major cause of inefficient manufacturing, since it generates large amount of wastes and creates considerable environmental burden.

The third paper in this issue by Ruxton et al. looks at the significance of monitoring environmental changes for better understanding of health of this ecological system. It would also help shape decision-making to ensure this important natural asset is protected into the future.

The fourth paper in this issue by Fang et al. discusses the effects of surface functional groups of activated carbon on adsorption of triclosan from aqueous solutions. The paper reports adsorption of triclosan by using activated carbons as a potential method to improve the discharge water purification process. Commercially available activated carbons, P1300, Picazine HP and Hydrodarco C, display different levels of affinity for triclosan from aqueous solution.

The fifth and the final paper in this issue by Othman et al looks at an alternative technology to reduce clogging of filter media used for Stormwater treatment. Filtration systems have widely been used for stormwater treatment. The clogging of filters has been considered an important design factor. The various mechanisms suggested to account for this phenomenon are usually classified as physical, chemical or biological. However the longevity of the performance and hence potential for clogging of compost based media is still not clearly understood.

We would like to thank all of the authors who submitted papers for this special issue of the *International Journal of Environmental Technology and Management* and the academic and professional reviewers for their invaluable contributions to the review process. We hope that you enjoy reading the diverse selection of papers represented in this issue. Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Dorgam, Editor-in-Chief of Inderscience Publications, for the opportunity to publish this Special Issue.