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## **Preface**

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### **Sunil Kumar\***

National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI),  
Kolkata Zonal Laboratory,  
I-8, Sector - C, East Kolkata Area Development Project,  
EM Bypass, PO East Kolkata Township,  
Kolkata 700 107, India  
Email: s\_kumar@neeri.res.in  
\*Corresponding author

### **Somnath Mukherjee**

Department of Civil Engineering,  
Jadavpur University,  
Kolkata 700 032, India  
Email: snm\_ju@yahoo.co.in

### **Maohong Fan**

Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and  
School of Energy Resources,  
University of Wyoming,  
Laramie, WY 82071, USA  
Email: mfan@uywo.edu

**Biographical notes:** Sunil Kumar is a Scientist at the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Kolkata, India. He has been working in the field of MSW management for the last 10 years. He is the author of numerous scientific papers in reputable international and national journals.

Somnath Mukherjee is a Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. He has published many papers in the domain of MSW management in national and international journals.

Maohong Fan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, USA.

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A large quantity of wastes is generated in urban and municipal areas, which include household materials, construction and demolition debris, sanitary residue and industrial materials. With the development of industry and increase in population, it is anticipated that more waste materials will be generated around the world. In other words, enormous quantities of organic and inorganic compounds will continue to be released into the environment as a result of human activities. Contaminant releases could be deliberate and

well regulated (e.g. industrial emissions) or accidental (e.g. chemical or oil spills). These waste materials have caused various eco-environmental issues. Therefore, cleaning these waste materials has become increasingly important.

Bioremediation is one of the major cost-effective methods to return the environment altered by contaminants to its original conditions. The method involves detoxifying hazardous substances instead of merely transferring them from one medium to another. It is less disruptive and can be carried out at contamination sites, which may eliminate the need of transporting toxic materials for treatment. Therefore, environmental research scientists and engineers are increasingly showing interest in developing new ways for bioremediating a variety of waste materials. To accelerate their earlier successes in the effort, this special issue of *International Journal of Environment and Pollution* is prepared to report some recent progresses made by the scientists in this field.