
Preface

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Biographical notes: Yu Liu is an Associate Professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He received his BE Degree from Beijing Institute Light Industry, China, and his Master and PhD Degrees from the Institut National des Sciences Appliquees-Toulouse, France. His research interests include biogranulation, biofilms and biological nutrient removal. He has published over 110 SCI-tracked journal papers and five books.

Etienne Paul is Professor at the National Institute of Applied Sciences in the Department of Chemical Engineering. He is teaching Biochemical Engineering, Water and Wastewater Engineering and advanced methods for pollution characterisation. He has more than 12 years of experience in the field of biological treatment of waters, wastewaters and wastes. He has been managing the team of Chemical and Biochemical Processes for Water, Wastewaters and Waste Treatment. He has supervised 15 PhD students, three Post-doctoral Fellows and 18 Master Degree students so far.

Qing-Liang Zhao is currently a Professor at the School of Municipal and Environmental Engineering, Harbin Institute of Technology, China. He was granted PhD in Harbin University of Civil Engineering and Architecture in 1993. He was one of the Winner of Scientific Fund of Heilongjiang Provincial Outstanding Youth in 2004. His major research interests are in the areas of wastewater treatment and resource utilisation, landfill leachate treatment, sludge minimisation and excess sludge stabilisation, microbial fuel cells, etc. He has published about 40 SCI-tracked journal papers and six books in Chinese as well as one book chapter in English.

Yung-Tse Hung received his PhD Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. His BSCE and MSCE Degrees are from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan. He has been a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cleveland State University since 1981. He has taught at 16 universities in eight countries. His research interests are biological waste treatment, industrial waste and hazardous waste treatment. He is Editor of *International Journal of Environment and Waste Management* and *International Journal of Environmental Engineering*, and Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Environmental Engineering Science (IJEES)*.

Hamidi Abdul Aziz received his PhD in Civil Engineering (Environmental Engineering) from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland in 1992. He is now Professor and Dean at the School of Civil Engineering, Universiti Sains Malaysia. His research is focused on alleviating the problems associated with industrial wastewater discharge and solid waste management via land filling, especially on leachate pollution. He is peer reviewer for several international journals. He serves as an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Chemistry and Environment*.

Special Issue: Microbial immobilisation technology has been developed and widely employed in wastewater treatment for decades. In general, microbial immobilisation can be classified as biofilm, aerobic and anaerobic granulation.

The publication contains eight papers on biofilms, anaerobic and aerobic granulation covering a wide spectrum of the up-to-date fundamental and applied research on microbial immobilisation technology. The papers in this special issue look into the effect of operation conditions on the formation, stability and performance of biofilms and microbial granules, microbiology of immobilised cultures, removal of nutrients (N and P) as well as recalcitrant chemicals by microbial immobilisation technology.

We believe that this publication can provide a unique platform for researchers in the field to exchange ideas, and will further stimulate discussion on the development of the next-generation microbial immobilisation technology for high-performance wastewater treatment with low energy demand.