
Preface

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Biographical notes: Rosa María Torres Sánchez holds Lic in Chemistry from UBA 1978 and PhD from UCL (Belgium, 1983). She is a CONICET researcher, specialised in materials and clay soil components characterisation and adsorption processes of pollutants: heavy metals and agrochemicals. She has taught at national universities and as a visitor professor in universities in Spain, Belgium, USA and Japan. She directs research projects on the use of organoclays and clays as adsorbents of pollutants, for bactericidal decontamination of water and for synthesis of new materials. She has published 90 papers in international journals and 20 book chapters, directed six theses and four in course. She is a regular reviewer for international journals and national research projects, and is a vice-director of CETMIC.

Maria dos Santos Afonso has a PhD in Chemistry. Her current position is Professor at Buenos Aires University where she teaches Aquatic Chemistry and General Chemistry courses. Her research interests focus on the biogeochemistry of soils, sediments and aquatic ecosystems, the cycles of water, carbon, nutrients and metals, water–rock interactions, chemistry of the organic pollutants such as pesticides, and environmental modelling. She has published more than 50 papers in international peer reviewed journals, one book and several book chapters.

The International Congress of Environmental Science and Technology and the First National Congress of the Argentinean Society of Environmental Sciences and Technologies was held from 28 May to 1 June 2012, in the city of Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina.

This Congress, named “Argentina and the Environment 2012 (AA2012)” under the title “A crosscutting and comprehensive look at environmental problems”, attempted to integrate researchers from different research and/or technology areas related to

environmental topics in an open forum where they were able to share knowledge and discussions about innovations, ideas, theories, advances and models, with colleagues coming from other disciplines.

The Congress also provided the opportunity to establish links for encouraging research and analysis over diverse environmental problems at a global, national and local level.

IJEnvH gave us the mission to publish a special issue dedicated to the conference with a selection of papers presented at AA2012. Thus, this issue of the journal presents seven research papers related to different topics:

- Water-quality assessment of a polluted urban river.
- Comparative toxicity of cypermethrin and a commercial formulation on *Rhinella arenarum* larval development (*Anura: bufonidae*).
- Screening of pharmaceuticals in surface water bodies of the Pampas Region of Argentina.
- Sediment phosphorus fractions in an urban lake and its usability for predicting the internal loading phenomenon.
- Accumulation of heavy metals in the bottom sediments of the Irkutsk Reservoir.
- Atmospheric pollution and mortality. A comparative study between two Latin American cities: Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Santiago (Chile).
- Limnological changes in two shallow lakes from an urban reserve throughout a complete hydrological cycle: proposals for restoration and management.