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Preface

This volume contains the reviewed papers accepted for the Sixteenth International Conference on Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution held in Skiathos, Greece in September 2008. This successful international meeting builds upon the prestigious outcomes of the 15 preceding conferences beginning with Monterrey, Mexico in 1993 and most recently in the Algarve, Portugal in 2007. These meetings have attracted outstanding contributions from leading researchers from around the world with the presented papers permanently stored in the WIT eLibrary as Transactions of the Wessex Institute (see <http://library.witpress.com/>)

Air pollution remains one of the most challenging problems facing the international community; it is widespread and growing in importance and has clear and known impacts on health and the environment. The human need for transport, manufactured goods and services brings with it often unintended, but none the less real, impacts on the atmospheric environment at scales from the local to the global. Whilst there are good examples of regulatory successes in minimising such impacts the rate of development of the global economy bring new pressures and the willingness of governments to regulate air pollution is often balanced by concerns over the economic impact of regulation.

Science is the key to identifying the nature and scale of air pollution impacts and is essential in the formulation of policies and regulatory decision-making. Continuous improvements in our knowledge of the fundamental science of air pollution and its application are necessary if we are to properly predict, assess and mitigate the air pollution implications of changes to the interlinked local, regional, national and international economic systems. Science must also be able to provide the evidence of improvements to air quality that result from implementation of the mitigation measure or the control regulation. The ability to assess and mitigate using the precautionary principle is a challenge that science must grasp and position itself to convince decision makers that uncertainty does not mean inertia. The outcomes of such activities must also be translatable into a suitable format to assist policy makers in reaching sustainable decisions and to build public acceptance and understanding of the nature and scale of the air pollution problem.

This volume brings together contributions from scientist around the world to discuss their recent work on various aspects of the air pollution phenomena. The conference series provides opportunities to foster scientific exchange, develop new collaborations amongst scientists and between scientists and policy makers or regulators, and provides a means for identifying new areas for scientific investigations.

The Editors of this book wish to thank the authors for their contributions and to acknowledge the assistance of the eminent members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee with the organisation of the conference and particularly with reviewing of the submitted papers.

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The Editors
Skiathos, 2008

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