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25 Bridge Street, Billerica, MA 01821, USA

Tel: 978 667 5841; Fax: 978 667 7582

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<http://www.witpress.com>

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A Catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-84564-450-5

ISSN: (print) 1746-448X

ISSN: (on-line) 1734-3541

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Preface

This volume contains the peer-reviewed papers accepted for the eighteenth International Conference on Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution held on the Greek island of Kos in June 2010. This successful international meeting builds upon the prestigious outcomes of the 17 preceding conferences beginning with Monterrey, Mexico in 1993 and most recently in Tallinn, Estonia in 2009. These meetings have attracted outstanding contributions from leading researchers from around the world. The presented papers are permanently stored in the WIT eLibrary as Transactions of the Wessex Institute (see <http://library.witpress.com/>). These papers provide an important on-line record of the development of science and policy pertaining to air pollution and they remain permanently available for researchers to access.

Despite the long history of attempts to manage the consequences of air pollution it remains one of the most challenging problems facing the international community. Air pollution 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 continuing development of the global economy bring new pressures upon the ability of the atmosphere to process pollutants and to safely remove them. Where the natural processing systems of the atmosphere become overloaded and the systems are unable to process inputs to the atmosphere at the rate they are added then pollution results. This brings risks to human health and the environment. The willingness of governments to move quickly to regulate air pollution is often balanced by concerns over the economic impact of such regulation. This frequently results in a lag between the scientific knowledge about the nature, scale and effect of air pollution and the implementation of appropriate, targeted and timely legislation.

Science remains the key to identifying the nature and scale of air pollution impacts and is essential in the formulation of policy relevant information for 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 emissions to the atmosphere. 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 be peer-reviewed but they 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 important volume brings together contributions from scientist from around the world to present recent work on various aspects of the air pollution phenomena. Notable in each of the eighteen conferences in this series has been the opportunity to foster scientific exchange between participants. New collaborations amongst scientists and between scientists and policy makers or regulators have arisen through contacts made in this series and each meeting has provided a further opportunity for identifying new areas of air pollution science demanding collaborative investigation.

Contributions in this volume address a broad range of urgent scientific and technical developments in our understanding of the fundamental causes of air pollution, the control and management options available to mitigate air pollution and the environmental effects of emitted pollutants. Papers presented at Air Pollution 2010 provide new data or present critical reviews in the field of modelling studies, policy and management studies, global and regional studies, emission, monitoring and measurement studies and impact studies.

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 peer reviewing of the submitted papers.

The Editors
Kos, 2010

Contents

Section 1: Air pollution modelling

Air quality modelling as a tool for sustainable urban traffic management <i>J. H. Amorim, M. Lopes, C. Borrego, R. Tavares & A. I. Miranda</i>	3
Remote sensing data assimilation in WRF-UCM mesoscale model: Madrid case study <i>R. San José, J. L. Pérez, J. L. Morant & R. M. González</i>	15
Assessing background air pollutant concentrations for modelling studies: evaluation of addition equations under Irish conditions <i>A. Donnelly, B. Broderick & B. Misstear</i>	25
A study of gas-particle partitioning of PAH according to adsorptive models and season <i>S. Pongpiachan, K. F. Ho & S. C. Lee</i>	37
Regulated metal levels in particulate matter in the Cantabria region (Northern Spain) using multivariate linear regression (MLR) <i>A. Arruti, I. Fernández & A. Irabien</i>	49
Evaluating the impacts of SO ₂ emissions from power stations in Kuwait <i>M. M. Al-Awadhi & M. F. Yassin</i>	59

Section 2: Air quality management

Recalibrating the United Kingdom's local air quality management regime to deliver desired goals <i>J. W. S. Longhurst, J. Barnes, T. J. Chatterton, E. T. Hayes, J. G. Irwin & A. O. Olowoporoku</i>	73
---	----

The Portuguese air quality management and assessment under INSPIRE and the CAFE Directive <i>C. Martins</i>	83
---	----

Section 3: Air pollution mitigation

Air pollution control in a new oil and gas developments using best available techniques <i>S. M. S. M. K. Samarakoon & O. T. Gudmestad</i>	97
The role of pit corrosion in engineering the carbon storage site at Ketzin, Germany <i>A. Pfennig & A. Kranzmann</i>	109
Dust emission reduction for open storage mineral piles by fences: CFD modelling <i>S. Torno, R. Rodriguez, C. Allende & J. Toraño</i>	121
In-situ air quality measurements on existing and innovative noise barriers <i>J. Hoogwerff, C. C. Tollenaar & W. J. van der Heijden</i>	129
New integrated noise absorbing coating <i>Z. J. Ji, J. M. Wang, G. H. Liu & J. Wang</i>	141
Environmental compatibility of renewable energy plants <i>E. Brizio & G. Genon</i>	149

Section 4: Aerosols and particles

Sampling of PM _{2.5} respirable particles in the northwest of the metropolitan zone of Mexico City during 2006 <i>Y. I. Falcon, L. Nuño, J. P. Becerril & L. Cortes</i>	163
Characterization of magnetic particulates in urban and industrial dusts <i>T. Magiera, Z. Strzyszcz, M. Jabłońska & G. Bzowska</i>	171
Evaluation of elution behavior and morphological change of the <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> pollen grain and release of its daughter allergenic particles by air polluted rainfall <i>Q. Wang, S. Nakamura, X. Gong, S. Lu, D. Nakajima, D. Wu, M. Suzuki, K. Sakamoto & M. Miwa</i>	185

Section 5: Emission studies

Industrial air emissions in Portugal: 2008 report <i>A. Martins</i>	201
Intercontinental freight transport impacts: modeling and measuring choice effects <i>E. Fornasiero & A. Libardo</i>	211
Particles emitted by a residential wood stove: comparison of various sampling and measuring methods <i>C. Le Dreff-Lorimier & M. Dufresne De Viriel</i>	223

Section 6: Exposure and health effects

A Neural Network model for the estimation of bioclimatic indexes <i>F. Patania, A. Gagliano, R. Caponetto, F. Nocera & A. Galesi</i>	237
Protection of the health and safety of port workers exposed to air chemical agents at work <i>E. Vafaki & G. Palantzas</i>	249
Building comparable synthetic health-related indicators of air quality in cities <i>C. Aschan-Leygonie & S. Baudet-Michel</i>	261

Section 7: Indoor air pollution

Indoor air quality assessment in a school building in Chennai City, India <i>S. M. Shiva Nagendra & P. Sri Harika</i>	275
A comparative study of indoor air pollution and its respiratory impacts in Delhi, India <i>P. Kulshreshtha & M. Khare</i>	287
Formaldehyde in indoor air: a public health problem? <i>S. Viegas & J. Prista</i>	297
Air fungal contamination in two elementary schools in Lisbon, Portugal <i>C. Viegas, C. Veríssimo, L. Rosado & C. Silva Santos</i>	305

Indoor and outdoor pollution in cloth dyeing: examples from textile studios in Nigeria tertiary institutions <i>D. O. Mákindé, E. T. Íjísakin & Y. O. Íjísakin</i>	313
---	-----

Section 8: Innovative indoor air quality techniques
Special session chaired by A. J. Geens

The role of fabric diffusers in delivering indoor air quality and enhancing energy performance <i>A. J. Geens, D. G. Snelson & H. Al-Madfai</i>	323
Ventilation to maintain indoor air quality in smoking rooms <i>D. G. Snelson, H. Al-Madfai & A. J. Geens</i>	339
Modelling the multi-year maximum daily PM ₁₀ concentration in Edinburgh: an application of the variability decomposition transfer function model <i>H. Al-Madfai, A. J. Geens & D. G. Snelson</i>	349

Section 9: Monitoring and measuring

Identification of redundant sensors in an air pollution network using cluster analysis and SOM <i>G. Ibarra-Berastegi, J. Sáenz, A. Ezcurra, U. Ganzedo, A. Elias, A. Barona & A. Barinaga</i>	359
Application of laser induced fluorescence to monitor atmospheric polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons <i>P. B. C. Forbes & E. R. Rohwer</i>	367
Mapping of ferrimagnetic susceptibility for screening of fly ash deposition <i>C. Fürst, C. Lorz, D. Zirlewagen & F. Makeschin</i>	379
Cyclones as PM ₁₀ and PM _{2,5} emission measurement classifiers <i>J. Hemerka, M. Braniš & P. Vybiral</i>	395
A cost-effective method for monitoring airborne particulate matter using tabletop SEM-EDS <i>K. Wilkinson, J. Lundkvist, G. Seisenbaeva & V. Kessler</i>	407

Adsorption of organic matter by inorganic particulate in air pollution <i>V. Villas-Boas, L. Moratelli, I. Nascimento, R. M. Dallago, R. Dellanora, A. L. Loureiro, P. Artaxo, E. Ribeiro Lovatel, N. C. Vieceli & E. Müller Cardoso</i>	419
Author Index	429