



Preface

Guest editorial

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This special issue of the *Desalination and Water Treatment Journal* contains selected papers presented during the third International Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics (CEMEPE 2011) & SECOTOX Conference, which was held on the Hellenic island of Skiathos during 19–24 June 2011. The conference was organized by the Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and the International Society of Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety. An international board of valued scientists comprised its scientific committee.

The specific areas of scientific interest, on which surveys and papers were presented during the conference, are the following:

- Air quality
- Cultural heritage and architectural issues
- Ecosystems analysis and protection
- Ecotoxicology
- Energy and environment
- Environmental economics
- Environmental education
- Environmental impact assessment and risk analysis
- Fate and transport of pollutants
- GIS and remote sensing
- Global climate change
- Industrial waste
- Integrated resource management

- Natural wastewater treatment systems
- Pollution control technologies
- Renewable energy sources
- Sustainable development and planning
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Sustainable urban planning
- Tourism and environment
- Urban aerosols and health effects
- Waste monitoring and management
- Water pollution
- Water resources engineering and management

The success of the conference is evident as 189 papers were included in the books of abstracts. From this number, 31 papers were initially selected and re-submitted (after appropriate extension) to be considered for eventual publication in this special issue, aiming to a specific edition of significant added-value for scientists, engineers, researchers, and policy-makers working in the relevant areas. Finally, 25 papers were selected after the respective review process.

The editors thank all the authors for their worthy contributions to this special issue of *Desalination and Water Treatment Journal*. Furthermore, we would like to express our thanks to the Journal Editor, Prof. Miriam Balaban, for the faith she showed to the Guest Editors and her help throughout the handling of manuscripts. We are also thankful to the several reviewers for the time and efforts they sacrificed in order to ensure high standards for the submitted manuscripts.