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AdaptToClimate conference 27–28 March 2014, Nicosia, Cyprus

Editorial

Climate change is now considered indisputable and it is strongly believed that this is attributed to a great extent to anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the mid-twentieth century. Global average air and ocean temperatures are increasing, precipitation patterns are shifting, snow and glaciers are melting, global average sea level is rising and extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and heat waves are becoming more frequent and intense. Independently of the future climate change scenarios and of the efforts for mitigating GHG emissions, it is believed that climate will continue to change in the coming decades due to the previous and current GHG emissions.

Climate change impacts are becoming more obvious throughout the world, with certain areas, natural systems, populations, and sectors of economy being more or less vulnerable to these impacts. It is clear that adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change is necessary in order to reduce vulnerability of natural and human systems, to enhance viability of social and economic activities, and to eliminate, at the degree possible, impacts from extreme weather events.

Recognizing the need for timely addressing climate change impacts in Cyprus and strengthening the country's adaptive capacity, the CYPADAPT project (http://uest.ntua.gr/ cypadapt) on the development of a National Adaptation Strategy was initiated in September 2011 and was successfully completed in March 2014. The Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of Cyprus was the coordinating beneficiary of the project, while the Unit of Environmental Science & Technology (www.uest.gr) of the National Technical University of Athens and the National Observatory of Athens were the two associated beneficiaries. Indicatively, the demonstration video of the CYPADAPT multi-criteria analysis tool for the prioritization of measures for adapting to climate change impacts is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbZ_RUJi_uE. The demonstration video provides background information on the CYPADAPT project and the problem targeted, guidance on the installation and initial start up of the developed software, as well as step-by-step guidelines on the software operation. The project was co-financed by the LIFE + Programme (LIFE10 ENV/CY/000723), the EU financial instrument for the environment.

In order to share the results of the CYPADAPT project implementation and further promote international efforts for adaptation, the CYPADAPT working team organized the AdaptToClimate Conference on the 27 and 28 March, 2014 at the Filoxenia Conference Centre of Nicosia, Cyprus with a dense and rich agenda, offering a considerable variety of topics presented through 12 thematic sessions.

Moreover, ambition of the AdaptToClimate Conference was to bring together scientists, practitioners, and decision-makers across a wide range of disciplines and

sectors to share insights into the climate change challenges and opportunities and to present adaptation approaches, tools, and strategies from both developed and developing countries worldwide.

Last but not least, the AdaptToClimate Conference was intended to further promote the European Commission efforts for supporting adaptation by providing nexus for up-to-date information sharing and coordination between countries.

Our goal in this special issue in the *Desalination and Water Treatment* journal is to present the best full papers that were presented in the AdaptToClimate Conference, addressing a variety of topics on the field of water including assessment of the climate change on water bodies, water footprint, desalination, water supply management, vulnerability of water systems, wastewater treatment processes, effect of climate change in wastewater treatment plants, and adaptation measures for the industry to the impact of climate change on water availability.

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