

ATHENS 2017 5th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management 21–24 June 2017, Athens, Greece

Editorial

This special issue of *Desalination and Water Treatment* includes 25 water and wastewater related papers, which were exclusively selected from the ATHENS 2017 5th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management (<http://www.athens2017.uest.gr>) held in Athens, Greece from 21st to 24th June 2017.

As in the cases of the previous international conferences:

- ATHENS 2012 (<http://athens2012.uest.gr>),
- ATHENS 2014 (<http://www.athens2014.biowaste.gr>),
- TINOS 2015 (<http://www.tinos2015.uest.gr>) &
- CYPRUS 2016 (<http://www.cyprus2016.uest.gr>),

the ATHENS 2017 5th International Conference aimed to make a step forward in the field of waste management through the promotion of innovative technologies and effective practices.

We were happy to announce that the series of our conferences keeps attracting the attention of the academics, private and public sector local authorities and businesses. This is proven by the gradual increase in the numbers of participants, the participating countries and the abstracts received and papers presented during the conference.

Significant effort is made to keep high standards in scientific papers and increase the visibility of the work, as proven by the increase of the papers finally published in the collaborating high reputation journals. At the same time, efforts are continuous in order to achieve high quality services for the conference participants.

The ATHENS2017 conference aimed to stimulate the interest of the scientific community, competent authorities of public and private sector and inform them about the latest developments and achievements in the field of solid waste management with special emphasis on municipal solid waste. Biological Treatment (composting & anaerobic digestion), the treatment at central facilities, waste prevention, separation at source and recycling also constitute priority subjects of the conference agenda. The new concept of this conference was the attempt to strengthen the links with industry. Emphasis was given to food industry, circular economy, symbiosis networks, energy consumption and saving, carbon footprint and water footprint, zero-waste initiatives, marine litter, energy-land-food-water nexus.

The conference provided an opportunity to bring together scientists and professionals from governmental departments, municipalities, private institutions, research and education institutions, industry, being a forum for the exchange of the most recent ideas, techniques and experiences in all areas of waste management. Furthermore, the Conference addresses the management of sewage sludge and liquids/effluents which are produced by waste management processes. In addition, solid materials used to remove contaminants from the liquid phase are also examined.

A special session focused on waste management and the role of local authorities and municipalities for taking advantage of both recyclable materials and biowaste. Last but not least, the intention of the Conference was

to seek and promote networking opportunities through a session devoted to Environment-related Competitive EU Programmes.

The Conference celebrated the 25th Anniversary of LIFE, the financial tool of European Commission for the Environment and was organized within the LIFE FOODPRINT project (LIFE13 ENV/GR/000958) (www.foodprint.gr), aiming to identify, quantify and implement measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the food industry sector including waste management.

The Conference agenda was dense and rich, offering a considerable variety of topics presented through almost 350 presentations within the twenty-six different oral sessions and an extensive poster session throughout the conference duration at Aegli Zappiou in Athens. Also, visits took place to waste management facilities.

The 25 water and wastewater related papers included in this Special Issue cover several different subjects including developing pellet-type adsorbent based on drinking water treatment residual, waste geothermal water as a source of medicinal raw material and drinking water, fluoride removal from water by lime sludge waste of paper mill, a novel highly sensitive carbon based HMPD/GC sensor electrode for Cu(II) analysis in flour and drinking water samples, uptake of heavy metal ions in aqueous solution by chitosan modified biochar, reclamation of metal-contaminated tailings with organic amendments, treatment of forging industrial wastewater containing graphite and sludge management, low cost agro-industrial biomasses and ferromagnetic bionanocomposites applied to treat textile effluents, removal of malachite green from aqueous solution by biofibers, uranium monitoring in ground and wastewaters, the effect of initial pH and retention time on boron removal by continuous electrocoagulation process, advanced treatment of pistachio processing industrial wastewater by the Fenton process, influence of treated sewage sludge applications on total and available heavy metal concentration of sandy clay soil, comparative study of the structural properties of minerals phyllosilicate and tectosilicate, study on the adsorption/desorption behavior of mercury in wastewater by wheat straw biochar, microwave pyrolysis of sewage sludge, crop vigorous limitations under soil salinity variation by using remote sensing indices in arid environments, characterization and potential uses of sewage sludge originating from wastewater treatment plants, modification of activated carbons from brewers' spent for hexavalent chromium adsorption, application of activated Algerian kaolins as low-cost potential adsorbents for the removal of humic acid from industrial effluents, covered Alumina as adsorbent for the removal of organic dye from coloured effluents, treatment of municipal waste landfill leachate, implementation of different physicochemical techniques for efficient management of olive mill wastewater streams, catalytic ozonation of 2-nitrophenol over nickel loaded activated carbon, antibiotics resistance in sewage sludge enterococci.

We hope that the academic society will also find the next conference, namely the NAXOS 2018 6th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management that will take place from 13th to 16th June 2018 (www.naxos2018.uest.gr) useful and up to their expectations.

We would like to thank Dr. Miriam Balaban, Editor-In-Chief of *Desalination and Water Treatment* for providing us with the opportunity to prepare and publish this special issue.

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