

Special Issue on NAXOS 2018
6th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management
Naxos Island, Greece, 13–16 June 2018

Editorial

This Special Issue of *Desalination and Water Treatment* includes 14 water and wastewater related papers, which were exclusively selected from the NAXOS 2018 6th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management (<http://www.naxos2018.uest.gr>) held in the beautiful island of Naxos, in Aegean, Greece from 13th to 16th June 2018.

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>)
- ATHENS 2017 (<http://www.athens2017.uest.gr>)

the NAXOS 2018 6th International Conference actually made a further step forward in the field of waste management and circular economy through the promotion of advanced practices and innovative technologies.

We were very satisfied to confirm that the series of our conferences on sustainable waste management 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 in 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 NAXOS2018 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 waste management with special emphasis on municipal solid waste. Waste prevention and reduction, biological treatment (composting & anaerobic digestion), advances in thermal management technologies and biotechnology, separation at source and recycling also constitute priority subjects of the NAXOS 2018 agenda. Attention was drawn to circular economy, symbiosis networks, biowaste and food waste, zero-waste initiatives, plastics and marine litter, new technologies, while emphasis was placed on the need of integrated management for the case of island and generally isolated areas.

The NAXOS 2018 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.

A special Session focused on municipal waste management and the role of local authorities with emphasis on municipalities for taking advantage of waste materials promoting circular economy. Last but not least, the intention of the Conference was to identify and enhance networking opportunities through a session devoted to Environment-related Competitive EU Programmes.

The Conference was organized within the LIFE PAVetheWAYSTE project (LIFE14 ENV/GR/000722) (www.pavethewayste.eu) funded by LIFE, the financial tool of European Commission for the Environment. The project aims to facilitate the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive in remote areas, by enabling local and regional authorities to improve their municipal waste recycling performance and, thus, pave the way to high resource efficiency. This is achieved through the design, construction and operation of an innovative system for the fine separation of municipal solid waste at source tailored for the needs of small municipalities, like Naxos and Small Cyclades Islands and Ancient Olympia, and giving emphasis to the value of waste materials.

The NAXOS 2018 agenda was very rich and dense, providing considerable variety of topics presented through more than 400 presentations within the twenty-six different oral sessions and an extensive poster session throughout the conference duration at the Cultural Center former Ursuline School of the beautiful island of Naxos. Also, site visits were included within the conference agenda so as to get familiar with the beauties of Naxos.

The 14 water and wastewater related papers included in this Special Issue cover several different subjects starting with water quality assessment of a dam lake and its influent streams, energy savings and reduced emissions in a wastewater treatment plant and variations in the properties of leachate according to landfill age. Next, the topics of the next papers of the Special Issue are related to dealing with specific wastewater streams and pollutants. More specifically, the next papers involve phenolics decontamination of olive mill wastewater using onion solid by-products homogenate, phenol degradation in illegally dumped industrial wastewater and coagulation / flocculation as pretreatment of landfill leachate for minimizing fouling in membrane processes. The next paper caters for copper(II) adsorption by opuntia ficus indica biochar fiber-MnO₂ composites, while the next two papers deal with heavy metals, efficiency of immobilized cyanobacteria in heavy metals removal from industrial effluents and heavy metal fixation in biochar after microwave pyrolysis of sewage sludge. The following papers of the special issue refer to the removal of fluoride from aqueous solutions using biomass ash derived from power industry, the removal of pharmaceutical residues from wastewater by woodchip-derived biochar and the degradation of azo-dyes acid orange 7 by H₂O₂ and ascorbic acid respectively. The 13th paper addresses effects of feed solution pretreatment on pressure-retarded osmosis with emphasis on changes in dissolved organic matter according to fluorescence excitation-emission matrix spectroscopy coupled with parallel factor analysis and liquid chromatography-organic carbon detection, while the last paper of the Special Issue deals with co-disposal of sludge generated during landfill leachate treatment with household solid waste.

We hope that the academic society will also find the next conference, namely the HERAKLION 2019 7th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management that will be held in Heraklion, Crete, Greece from 26th to 29th June 2019 (www.heraklion2019.uest.gr) more inspiring satisfying even higher expectations.

We would like to thank Dr. Miriam Balaban, the Editor-In-Chief of *Desalination and Water Treatment* for providing us with the trust to collaborate with this journal and publish this Special Issue.

Guest Editors:

Dr. Konstantinos Moustakas and Dr. Maria Loizidou
National Technical University of Athens
School of Chemical Engineering
Unit of Environmental Science & Technology
9 Heroon Polytechniou St., Zographou Campus
15773, Athens, Greece
Email: konmoust@central.ntua.gr
Tel. +30 2107723108/2334
Fax +30 2107723285
Website: www.uest.gr