

Foreword

The International Congress on the Radioecology-Ecotoxicology of Continental and Estuarine Environments "ECORAD 2001" has been organized by the Institute for Nuclear Safety and Protection (IPSN), and took place at the premises of the Congress Center in Aix-en-Provence, France, 3-7 September 2001.

The purpose of ECORAD 2001 was essentially to take stock of the situation in Radioecology on the threshold of the 21st century, and to widen perspectives in order to reflect and integrate the strong evolutions which are currently driven by the worldwide environmental scientific community in response to a growing pressure from the social demand. Focused on the behaviour of radioactive nuclides in continental and estuarine environments, this widening effort has particularly challenged the fields of ecotoxicology and environmental radioprotection.

This Congress gathered 450 participants from 38 countries who successfully contributed to achieving these goals based on 54 plenary oral communications and 256 poster presentations. A first publication has already been issued which, by collating the 15 introductory oral communications, provides an overview of the state-of-the-art in the various topics covered by the Congress (Radioactive pollutants: impact on the environment, 2001, F. Bréchnignac and B.J. Howard, Eds., IPSN Collection Series, EDP Sciences, Paris, France). Here, these two-volumes Proceedings include all other contributing papers, either oral or poster, which have been submitted and accepted for publication after conventional and scrupulous peer-review. All accepted papers have been assembled under chapter headings which reflect the overall sessions' structure of the scientific programme. When cumulating two recommendations for rejection from two independent referees, the rule has been respected and such papers have not been considered further for publication.

Further to all members of the various committees, the sponsors and the staff of the Congress Center, I wish first to thank all participants and authors for their high-rated contributions which form the very substance of these two volumes. This is a clear demonstration of vitality for a scientific community facing crucial challenges. Especial acknowledgements are due to key scientists having accepted to assist on the spot in dispatching the manuscripts to relevant referees for prompt review: Christelle Adam, Bernard Bonin, Patrick Bouisset, Dominique Boust, Franca Carini, Sergueï Fesenko, Jacqueline Garnier-Laplace, René Kirchmann, Carl-Magnus Larsson, Jean-Marc Peres, Steve Sheppard, Jim Smith and Christian Tamponnet. Their immediate and enthusiastic involvement has proven to be quite efficient and helpful. Warm thanks also go to the many referees themselves for achieving the reviewing task, which turns out sometimes not to be that easy... Claude Colle and Jean-Marc Peres have been essential at the manuscript reception desk, screening for conformity with camera-ready prescriptions. Many others have also helped in one way or the other, prior, during or post-meeting, they all deserve gratitude, but it is finally not possible to conclude without directing especial acknowledgements to Maryline Paniandy. All along the lifetime of this event, Maryline has been everywhere, day after day, dealing with phone calls, mails, authors, embassies, sub-contractors, invoices, manuscript corrections,... smoothing down all emerging problems with smiles, kindness and efficiency. One cannot forget that she fully shares the success of this important event.

François Bréchnignac



Maryline Paniandy