

Editorial by Otto Hutzinger Editor-in-Chief

Rapid advances in industrialization and technology during the last decades together with changes in agricultural practices have brought not only advantages for many areas of human endeavour but have also created potentially devastating problems for our environment and human health. Depletion of stratospheric ozone, acid rain, toxic chemicals, waste issues, and global warming are just some of the problems we now recognize.

Pollutants and other environmental problems do not stop at political borders. Without exaggeration it can be stated that no activity affecting the environment in one country is insignificant for another. Even in the age of intensified travel, telecommunication and computers, information exchange on environmental issues between different political entities and geographic areas is woefully lacking. Such exchange, however, is imperative to detect, understand and measure problems and, eventually, evaluate, regulate, change and control them.

Our new publication is conceived as a scientific journal. It is being launched as medium of communication and information with both a truly international and interdisciplinary outlook.

Through a global network of regional editors representing a variety of disciplines we will assure up-to-date information and reports from all relevant fields. Although the journal is open to discussing any type of environmental problem, emphasis will be on issues related to **chemical pollutants**. Topics such as chemical analysis, environmental fate, toxicology and health issues, ecotoxicology, technological aspects, risk evaluation and regulatory aspects will be featured.

We believe the time to be right for this publication. I like to thank all colleagues who have helped this concept to evolve and have contributed their ideas.

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