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Front cover: 'Urban Soils' is the main theme of this issue. This term is a shorthand for all soils located in urbanized, industrial, trafficked, mining and military areas; these are the same soils studied by the Soils of Urban, Industrial, Traffic & Mining Areas (SUITMA) working group of the IUSS. They are increasingly important as the world continues to urbanise. Their classification and mapping present particular challenges. JSS is developing a cooperation with SUITMA.

Some aspects of this vast area of 'Urban Soils' are discussed in this issue, others have been covered in previous editions of JSS and ESPR: Lehmann A, Schad P (2007): WRB-Excursion on Technosols and Stagnosols through Germany in August 2007. *J Soils Sediments* 7, 426–430

Lehmann A, Stahr K (2007): Nature and Significance of Anthropogenic Urban Soils. *J Soils Sediments* 7, 247–260 (s. cover photos)
Niederer M, Maschka-Selig A, Hohl C (1995): Monitoring Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Heavy Metals in Urban Soil, Compost and vegetation. *Env Sci Pollut Res* 2, 83–89

Norra S, Stueben D (2003): Urban soils. *J Soils Sediments* 3, 230–233

Ona LF, Melinda A, Alberto P, Prudente JA, Sigua GC (2006): Levels of Lead in Urban Soils from Selected Cities in a Central Region of the Philippines. *Env Sci Pollut Res* 13, 177–183

Pruvot C, Douay F, Herve F, Waterlot C (2006): Heavy Metals in Soil, Crops and Grass as a Source of Human Exposure in the Former Mining Areas. *J Soils Sediments* 6, 215–220

Rossiter DG (2007): Classification of Urban and Industrial Soils in the World Reference Base for Soil Resources. *J Soils Sediments* 7, 96–100

Vegter J (2007): Urban Soils – An Emerging Problem? *J Soils Sediments* 7, 63

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