

Foreword and acknowledgement

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 7th International Conference on Contaminated Land "*ConSoil 2000*" in the beautiful and historic city of Leipzig.

The decision to organise *ConSoil 2000* in Leipzig was readily made in view of its multitude of interesting local features. On the one hand the inspiring history of the city and the region still lets us feel the presence of Bach and Goethe. But more importantly in the context of our conference the many regional activities in environmental rehabilitation, among which soil decontamination is a dominant issue, offer interesting opportunities to look at a variety of problems and the way they are approached by local scientists and authorities. The partnership with UFZ Leipzig-Halle in preparing and organising *ConSoil 2000* also provided opportunities to incorporate the regional land rehabilitation activities. Finally, the new conference venue CCL as part of the well known Leipziger Messe is an unique and hospitable conference center.

Following in the track of the six preceeding conferences, *ConSoil* is now a well established engaged international forum for those in the field of contaminated land:

- scientists exchange the latest results of fundamental research and have a chance to form research consortia
- engineers present progress in technical innovation and communicate about current and future technologies and business challenges for the prevention of soil contamination and for remediation of polluted sites
- policy makers and administrators discuss the shaping of national and international strategies and attempt to harmonise international legislation
- land developing companies present and exchange views, knowledge and practices
- the various expert-networks on land reclamation have a meeting point for further activities.

The response to the Call for Contributions has been very enthusiastic, with more than 500 abstracts for presentations received. The Scientific Committee, supported by the Scientific Advisory Board, selected contributions to design a comprehensive programme with a variety of sessions and events.

The general scope of the conference programme has been retained but additional items have been included, such as:

- Planning and decision making
- Contaminated sites in urban and regional development
- Soil and groundwater protection
- Communication
- New countries with land rehabilitation activities.

In addition to 26 lecture sessions, extended time is available for interactive sessions, like workshops (7), special sessions (9) and the US EPA Technical session. Ample time is given for bilateral discussions with the authors in 3 poster sessions.

The organisers are pleased to have country sessions from Saxony and Saxony Anhalt, Catalunya, Italy and UK. Together with country sessions from Germany and the Netherlands they reflect again the growing international interest in presenting the latest developments in the countries concerned.

A new interesting event is the Case Study session, in which four teams from different countries present their solutions for a local contaminated site. The evaluation of the four plans by the CLARINET Steering Group will be presented.

Further special events at ConSoil 2000 are a Satellite Seminar on abandoned armament and military sites, a Brokerage Event for finding partners for EU Framework Programme 5 and a meeting corner for the various networks.

Interesting technical tours and a technical exhibition again round up the conference programme.

The proceedings have proven to be a valuable documentation of the conference events.

The conference is sponsored by generous grants from the German Federal Government, Saxony and the Netherlands, and is supplemented by substantial support from the national and regional governments of Catalunya, Italy, UK and the city of Leipzig.

We are delighted to welcome many old friends to ConSoil 2000 in Leipzig and look forward to making new ones. We are confident that the conference and the inspiring host city of Leipzig will catalyse the exchange of valuable information and the establishment of enhanced co-operation.

Prof. Dr. Wim Harder

Chairman of the Scientific Committee
TNO

Dipl. -Phys. Friedrich Arendt

Chairman of the Organising Committee
FZK