

Foreword

Looking back at the series of five preceeding conferences, ConSoil is a well established qualified international forum for those engaged in the field of contaminated land:

- scientists exchange the latest results of fundamental research
- engineers present progress in technical innovation
- managers communicate about current and future technologies and business, challenges for prevention of soil contamination and for remediation of polluted sites
- policy makers discuss the shaping of national and international strategies and attempts to harmonize international legislation
- investors, administrators, banking and insurance companies present and exchange news, knowledge and practices.

Encouraged by the wide interest in the fifth conference in Maastricht, the organizers decided to continue the ConSoil series. In preparing the sixth conference, the general scope of the conference programme was retained but additional items were included, such as risk management and technology transfer and the legal, financial and insurance aspects of contaminated land and its utilization. The number of oral presentations has been reduced in favour of extending the time available for case studies and workshops. Company and country presentations, 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 decision to go to Edinburgh was strongly influenced by the substantial increase of interest in the United Kingdom for our subjects since the early 1990s. Great efforts were made by regional authorities and scientists to hold ConSoil '98 in Scotland. In particular, Scottish Enterprise offered very generous support. The city of Edinburgh and others joined them cordially. Consequently, Scottish Enterprise was appointed the third organizing institution of the 1998 conference. Another important aspect in favour of the Edinburgh venue was the possible combination of ConSoil '98 and the simultaneously occurring event of Urban World '98 in the nearby city of Glasgow.

Once again, the conference is sponsored by generous grants from Germany and the Netherlands, supplemented by support from national and regional governments of Finland, Spain (the Basque Region) and Switzerland.

The response to the call for papers was very good, with more than 500 abstracts for presentations received, from which the Scientific Committee, supported by the Scientific Advisory Board, selected the contributions to a comprehensive programme of lectures, poster presentations and workshops.

We are delighted to welcome many old friends to ConSoil '98 in Edinburgh and look forward to meeting new ones. We are confident that the conference programme, the venue and the social programme will trigger the exchange of valuable information and the establishment of enhanced cooperation.

Prof. Dr Wim Harder

*Chairman of the Scientific
Committee, TNO*

Friedrich Arendt

*Chairman of the Organizing
Committee, FZK*

Iain Hart

Scottish Enterprise.