



## Guest Editorial

This special issue of the *Desalination and Water Treatment* journal contains selected papers presented during the third International Conference on Small and Decentralized Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants (SWAT-III), which was held on the Hellenic island of Skiathos, 14–16th May 2010. The conference was organized by the Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, the Department of Chemistry, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Department of Food Technology, Alexander Technological Education Institute of Thessaloniki. An international board of valued scientists comprised its scientific committee.

SWAT symposia aspire to be held on a biennial basis in selected places around Greece, characterized by both natural beauty and cultural significance. The areas of interest and the topics of these symposia, on which scientific surveys and papers were presented during the third conference, are the following:

- Urban and industrial wastewater
- Natural systems for wastewater treatment
- Decentralized wastewater treatment plants
- Water quality
- Drinking water treatment
- Economic and technical parameters
- Small wastewater treatment plants
- Sludge management
- Recycling, reclamation and reuse of treated water

The conference attracted many Greek and foreign scientists and professionals from universities, research institutes, technical enterprises, constructive and consulting companies, as well as representatives from regional and municipal authorities. Invited speaker of the Conference was the Professor Vasilis A. Tsihrintzis from the Department of Environmental Engineering, Democritus University of Thrace. Professor V.A. Tsihrintzis has a long-term scientific experience on issues related to water resources management, biotopes and water quality, hydrology, water basin management, constructed wetlands etc. He is the principal author in more than 200 papers published in scientific journals, chapters in books and research reports. In addition, invited speaker of the Conference was Dr. Andreas Aggelakis, scientific consultant of the Hellenic Union of Municipal Enterprises for Water Supply and Sewerage. Dr. A. Aggelakis is a research associate of National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF) and his scientific interests concern mainly water resources management and urban wastewater treatment.

The success of the conference is evident in the 69 papers presented in total (49 oral and 20 posters). Twenty-five papers were initially submitted to be considered for publication in this special issue of *Desalination and Water Treatment* journal, aiming to a special edition of significant added-value for scientists, engineers, researchers and policy makers working in the relevant areas. The finally selected 18 papers represent the most important aspects discussed in the SWAT-III Conference in the context of water and wastewater management.

We would like to thank all the authors for their worthy contributions to this special issue of *Desalination and Water Treatment* journal. Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to the Journal Editor, Prof. Miriam Balaban, for the faith she showed to the guest editors, her valuable remarks and her undeterred help throughout the handling of manuscripts. We are also thankful to the reviewers for the time and efforts they sacrificed in order to ensure high standards for the submitted manuscripts.

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