

Preface: a special issue on mine reclamation and suitable management for heavy metals

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It is our great honor to edit this special issue of Environmental Geochemistry and Health (EGAH), especially with the special theme of mine reclamation and suitable management for heavy metals. This issue has been made up with the extended works of oral or poster presentations that were given at the 2009 International Symposium on Mine Reclamation held cooperatively by the Korea Mine Reclamation Corporation (MIRECO) and the Korean Society for Geosystem Engineering (KSGE) in South Korea. Briefly, MIRECO is a non-profit national corporation that is currently dealing with the most projects of mine reclamation and rehabilitation in South Korea, while KSGE is a society of scientists and technicians who are working on resource engineering and similar fields. At the symposium, more than 60 oral and poster presentations were made by eminent professionals and scholars from across the world, covering several themes such as mine water treatment, soil remediation, treatment and recycling of tailings, ground subsidence, reforestation, risk assessment, GIS, and other mine hazards. Among the presentations, we have carefully selected and are proceeding to publish 17 full papers that follow the discipline of EGAH. This issue holds scientifically excellent works, providing valuable background to study the emerging technology in the field of mine rehabilitation

and reclamation as well as proper management for heavy metals.

Due to the environmental problems caused by the indiscreet development for mines, worldwide damage has gradually increased and people everywhere are greatly interested in the subject of mine hazards. In addition, since sustainable development in mining sector has become an issue, interest by nations in the balance between development and the environment has gradually intensified, and the recognition for the importance of the environment has increased. With regard to several aspects, not only mine rehabilitation or reclamation but also suitable management for heavy metals has been considered as the key solution of the sustainability in mining sector.

Therefore, the aims of this special issue are (1) to research the damaged areas and types of mine hazards that have occurred, (2) to study mine reclamation technology through presenting actual examples of technology application on the affected sites, and (3) to address the newly-developed advanced technology in the fields of mine reclamation and rehabilitation.

As editors, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the CEO of MIRECO, Mr. Lee Jae Lee, the former president of KSGE, Dr. Min Kyungwon, and the current president of KSGE, Dr. Hur Dae-gi, for supporting the publication of this special issue. The guest editors declare they have no conflict of interest.

Full text is available at :

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10653-010-9352-4?LI=true>