Special Issue

Outdoor and Indoor Air Ions, Radon, and Ozone

Message from the Guest Editors

In outdoor environments, tropospheric ozone is generated as a consequence of the interaction between solar UV radiation and polluted air. Radon is a radioactive gas that is continually exhalating from the soil; it remains in the near-ground layer of the atmosphere, where its alpha decay acts as the main cause of production of air ion pairs. Small air ions influence the nucleation, condensation, and global electromagnetic field of the Earth. In indoor air, radon accumulates. Exposure to high concentrations of accumulated radon for longer time periods can have detrimental effects to human health, even causing lung cancer. On the other hand, acute exposure to very-high radon concentrations has been denoted as being beneficial to human health, and is even used in radon spas. Ozone can be generated as a byproduct of artificial ion generation. When inhaled for longer time periods, it is harmful to humans. However, very-high concentrations of ozone are excellent when used in the absence of living organisms, as a sterilizing gas which eliminates pathogens from the air.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Continued developments in instrumentation and modeling have driven atmospheric science to become increasingly more complex with a deeper understanding of concepts, mechanisms, and interactions. This is the field that innovation built and it has led to a better appreciation for the complexity with atmosphere. Human life is intertwined in this complexity as we strive to better understand our atmosphere. Climate change is constantly stretching the limits of our thinking and forcing new ideas and concepts to be played out. Welcome to the Anthropocene!

Editor-in-Chief

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