

Special Issue

Source Apportionment and Ecological Risk of Heavy Metals in Soil

Message from the Guest Editor

Soil is the most important reservoir of pollutants in the terrestrial ecosystem. With rapid urbanization and industrialization, soil pollution has internationally recognized a global problem, with implications for global food security and human health. Among various pollutants in soils, heavy metals are particularly hazardous due to their cumulative toxicity and persistence, which are attracting more and more attention. The sources of heavy metals in soils are very complex, including natural and anthropogenic sources, leading to the spatial heterogeneity of heavy metals in soils. The heavy metals in soils may threaten human health through inhalation, ingestion, and dermal absorption. Although heavy metals in soils are monitored in most countries, the knowledge on source apportionment and ecological risk of heavy metals in soils needs to be enhanced in order to provide effective references for soil management and remediation. This Special Issue of the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH)* focuses on source apportionment, spatial prediction, human health risk assessment, and regulation strategies of heavy metals in soils.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

IJERPH provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality peer-reviewed journal.

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