
TOXIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS IN THE ENVIRONMENT – TOCOEN '93

An international conference held in Znojmo, Czech Republic, in June 1–3, 1993, has, in certain sense, summarized and highlighted a tremendous and enthusiastic effort of originally small but steadily growing group of "TOCOEN people". This emotional name used frequently by prof. Ivan Holoubek, one of the founders of TOCOEN project in 1988, is covering today a number of Czech and Slovak universities, research institutions and various companies as well as some institutions in other countries. Conference in Znojmo (120 Czech and Slovak participants and 30 attendees from other countries) has given an unique opportunity to illustrate various parts and aspects of the project. Four plenary lectures, 31 oral presentations and 72 posters, have dealt with a broad spectrum of organic pollutants from different points of view.

Major part of contributions has been focused on polyaromatic hydrocarbons, chlorinated pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls as well as on polychlorinated dioxines and dibenzofuranes. Literally all compartments of the environment, including air, fresh and marine water, water sediments, soil and biota have been analysed. Methodological aspects, traditionally the spinal cord of TOCOEN project, have been broadly discussed, starting from advanced analytical methods developed for environmental analyses, to various laboratory models, computer simulations and prediction methods. Geographically, attention has been paid mostly to Central Europe, although some contributions, namely those dealing with marine waters, sediments and biota, have brought the information from other continents. Several site-visits and countryside excursions have been conveniently implemented into the program.

Conference Proceedings, carefully edited by the Organizing Committee and available on the conference, have more than 340 pages. Editorial Board of CEJPH has accepted a kind offer of the organizers to publish selected contributions in full text. This should be also understood as a first step in covering of important international events in the field of public health and related disciplines held in Central European region. In the future, CEJPH Supplements will be issued for this purpose.

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