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Foreword

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The 7th symposium on electrokinetic remediation (EREM) held in Seoul, August 20–22, 2008 was organized by Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and Kumoh National Institute of Technology (KIT). Electrokinetic remediation is an environmental technique that uses electric fields to extract heavy metals, inorganic species and organic compounds, from soils, slurries and solid industrial wastes. Electrokinetic remediation is an "in situ" method for restoration of polluted soils and can be used in the management of industrial wastes.

The EREM conference has been hold since 1997 every 2 years in Europe in different Universities and Research Centers: Ecole des Mines d'Albi, (Albi, France, 1997); Technical University of Denmark (Lyngby, Denmark, 1999); Karlsruhe University (Karlsruhe, Germany, 2001); Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (Mol, Belgium, 2003), University of Ferrara (Ferrara, Italy, 2005) and University of Vigo (Vigo, Spain, 2007). At the EREM 2007, the period of conference was changed into every year because the number of participants increased exponentially. This EREM 2008 was the first symposium held in outside of Europe.

Contributions from 19 countries were included in the scientific program both as oral and poster communications. Moreover, two plenary lectures were presented on:

- Electro-Reclamation in Practice: Set-up and operation of commercial in-situ electro-reclamation projects for inorganic and organic contaminants
- Current status and perspective on electrokinetic remediation

The topics discussed during the EREM 2008 have been:

- Fundamental aspects in electrokinetics.
- Remediation of heavy metals and organic pollutants.

- Modeling and simulation.
- Applied research.
- Field and case studies.
- Combination of electrokinetic remediation with other remediating technologies.
- Other topics concerning electrokinetics.

EREM 2008 offered numerous opportunities to learn about innovative and emerging scientific advances and to discuss current trends on electrokinetic topics, especially research status in Asian countries.

In this special issue, some selected contributions from EREM 2008 concerning the electrokinetic remediation are provided.

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