



Study of Atmospheric Deposition of Heavy Metals in Europe

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Message from the Guest Editor

Air pollution is now the biggest environmental risk for early death, as it is responsible for more than 6 million premature deaths each year from heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, and respiratory diseases. Research suggests that long-term exposure to some pollutants increases the risk of emphysema more than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. Recent studies show air pollution can affect mental health, worker productivity, and even stock market performance. To develop the best solutions, it is important to better understand this invisible threat. What we typically think of as “air pollution” is actually a mixture of small particles, including the following: (1) Particulate matter (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}). (2) Nitrogen oxides (NO and NO₂). (3) Ozone (O₃). (4) Sulfur dioxide (SO₂). (5) Biomonitoring of atmospheric deposition of toxic heavy metals (Pb, Cd, Hg, etc.), persistent organic pollutants (POPs), polymeric aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), radionuclides, cosmic, dust and microplastics.

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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!

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