

EDITORIAL

The journal “Engenharia Ambiental: pesquisa e tecnologia” begins the year 2008 with two important achievements.

The first is the selection of the journal for inclusion in the Open Science Directory, which includes over 13,000 titles of scientific journals (<http://atoz.ebsco.com/titles.asp?id=8623&sid=42074174&menuid=6900078&lang=en&page=2>). This database was developed by UNESCO, EBSCO, considered one of the largest science and technology information companies in the world, and Hasselt University Library, in Belgium.

The main objective of the Open Science Directory is to offer free access to the contents of scientific publications to contribute to scientific and technological development of nations around the world.

The journal “Engenharia Ambiental: pesquisa e tecnologia” was chosen because it meets the requirements for quality, is included in more than four national and international databases, and principally because it maintains the periodicity of its issues. This achievement would not have been possible without the support of the scientific community, whose contributions over the past four years have provided the journal with international recognition.

Due to its growing repercussion, the journal “Engenharia Ambiental: pesquisa e tecnologia”, presents yet another historical innovation with volume 5, increasing its periodicity from biannual to quarterly. This change is a result of the need to meet the growing demand with respect to the number of articles submitted and accepted by the journal, together with the Brazilian scientific community. In this first issue of 2008, nine articles are published reporting on studies developed by the following Brazilian research and educational institutions: Universidade Católica de Goiás (UCG); Escola Agrotécnica Federal de Crato-CE; Universidade Federal da Campina Grande (UFCG)-PB; Universidade Federal da Paraíba (UFPB); Universidade Estadual da Paraíba (UEPB); Faculdade Municipal Professor Franco Montoro (FMPFM)-SP; Faculdade de Engenharia Química da Universidad de la Frontera, Chile; Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP); Centro Superior de Educação Tecnológica (CESET/UNICAMP); Centro Regional Universitário de Espírito Santo do Pinhal (UNIPINHAL).

The first article addresses questions related to the implantation of the bases for environmental insurance in Brazil, with the participation of an environmental engineering student from the Universidade Católica of Goiás.

The contributions of research and educational institutions from the state of Paraíba deserve special note, with four articles submitted to the journal, three from the Universidade Federal of Paraíba related to the following themes: the use of salt water to irrigate cotton fields; evaluation of environmental degradation in sand mining activities; and the use of geotechnologies in the analysis of a watershed. In addition, there is a report on a collaborative study between researchers from the Universidade Federal of Paraíba and the Universidade Estadual of Paraíba about the use of vegetable extracts to control maize plagues, thus decreasing the use of agricultural pesticides.

Three articles published in this issue were written by researchers associated with the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP), including an evaluation of water quality in a hydrographic micro basin in Limeira, in the interior of the state of São Paulo, carried out by teachers and students of the Centro Superior de Educação Tecnológica (CESET). Researchers from the Instituto de Biologia and the Instituto de Química of UNICAMP and the Faculdade de Engenharia Química of the Universidad de la Frontera do Chile describe an activated mud system for the treatment of liquid effluents, and evaluate its effectiveness in the treatment of effluents from a paper industry. Air quality in Espírito Santo do Pinhal, in the state of São Paulo, was evaluated through a collaborative study between the Faculdade de Engenharia Química of UNICAMP and the Environmental Engineering Program at UNIPINHAL.

Finally, an article is presented that addresses the implantation of a general development plan as a tool for managing conformity, aiming to improve its effectiveness and minimize risks to the environment as well as the business. This article was developed based on the conclusion of a course developed by UNIPINHAL, with the participation of a teacher from the Faculdade Municipal Professor Franco Montoro in Mogi Guaçu - SP.

The articles published in this issue demonstrate the vocation of the journal “Engenharia Ambiental: pesquisa e tecnologia” as a vehicle for communicating multidisciplinary themes in the field of Environmental Engineering, in the national as well as international contexts. Thus, we would like to express our appreciation for the participation of all the researchers and professionals whose articles appear in this issue,

and take the opportunity to invite, once again, the entire environmental community to use this journal as an instrument for publishing their work.

Gerson Araújo de Medeiros
Fábio Augusto Gomes Vieira Reis
Editors