

EDITORIAL

“Environmental Engineering: research and technology” represents an important historical moment in the evolution of the Environmental Engineering course of the Centro Regional Universitário de Espírito Santo do Pinhal.

Although the first group of students of the course, which was created in 1999, enrolled in 2000, the first researches they and their professors developed were already presented in 2002 at the 1st Brazilian Symposium of Environmental Engineering in Itajaí, state of Santa Catarina. At that time, there was already a noticeable dearth of events and publications focusing on Environmental Engineering, a very recent course in Brazil.

This dearth prompted the proposal, made that same year to the students and teaching staff, of launching a technical and scientific journal on Environmental Engineering themes, such as: Sanitation, Environmental Management, Environmental Impacts, Territorial Planning, Teaching of Environmental Engineering etc. The main purpose of this publication would be to provide a forum for the presentation and dissemination of researches to the entire community of environmental engineers and correlated areas.

The initial idea was to publish a journal with a regional scope; however, due to the lack of publications on the above themes and the ready approbation of researchers and lecturers from other institutions, it was decided that the journal's scope should reach a national context with the publication of work developed at other education and research centers.

The name of the journal, suggested by academic Magda Rafaldini, originated from a contest among the students enrolled in the course, who, with the professors, are co-authors of practically all the researches developed, as can be seen from the papers published so far.

This first edition of the journal contains an overview of the course's history in the form of a transcription of the inaugural class that marked its academic beginning. This class, which was given in February 2000 by the then Secretary of the Environment for the state of São Paulo, Dr. Ricardo Trípoli, dealt with very current environmental problems and with the job market that is opening up for the environmental engineer.

This article is followed by a text based on a lecture given by Prof. Antonio Félix Flores Rodrigues, of the University of Azores of Portugal, during the 2nd Brazilian Symposium of Environmental Engineering held in Itajaí, Santa Catarina and organized by the Environmental Engineering department of the University of Vale do Itajaí. In this article, Prof. Rodrigues discusses the state of the art of Environmental Engineering in Europe, serving as a very

interesting body of references for other Environmental Engineering courses in Brazil and for the profession itself.

The researches developed in the course and published in this journal deal with emergent areas of Environmental Engineering at CREUPI, such as ecotoxicology, treatment and reuse of residues, environmental diagnoses and the teaching of Environmental Engineering.

Other contributors to this inaugural edition are researchers connected to the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering of the Campinas State University – UNICAMP and the Faculty of Agronomy of the Júlio de Mesquita Filho State University at Jaboticabal, which sent papers dealing with water treatment for the supply of rural properties and technologies for the recovery of degraded areas.

Among the scientific articles published herein, we highlight the one concerning the use of phosphatization sludge as a substrate for native tree species. The results presented are the fruit of the first partnership of our Environmental Engineering course with the industrial sector, represented by the company Mahle Metal Leve S.A. of Mogi Guaçu, state of São Paulo. Partnerships such as this one are fundamental for the development of research and benefit both parties, be it through the search for technological innovation and new solutions for the disposal of waste and effluents, or through improvements in the quality of education in environmental engineering.

Accounts and previous notes are also present in this publication, including: an explanation of the research and extension developed to date in the course; preliminary results of the development of a methodology for recycling cooking oil, applicable for purposes of environmental education; and an account of the event organized by EMBRAPA Environment of Jaguariúna, SP, concerning environmental issues of contemporary society.

Another article highlighted here is the one giving an account of the first extension project of our course in the community of Espírito Santo do Pinhal, entitled “Sweetwater project”, which has presented developments in the municipality and even in the pedagogical area of the undergraduate course.

Two book summaries of interest to Environmental Engineering are included in this inaugural edition. The first consists of a compilation of the entire production of CREUPI’s Environmental Engineering course since its creation, and was developed by teachers of the course, and the second refers to a publication for both students and professors aimed at helping them to write scientific papers, monographs, summaries, texts, etc.

The journal “Environmental Engineering; research and technology” intends, therefore, to make its contribution toward technical and scientific development in our country, offering

in its editions researches and studies that are relevant to the education of professionals of the environmental area. It also aims to contribute to the dissemination of this emergent professional, the environmental engineer, in Brazil, so that he/she is recognized not only by environmental institutions and by the business sector but also, and especially, by the community as a whole.

In this context, the journal's editorial staff invites environmental communities in Brazil and abroad to participate, contribute and propose ideas about this new space of information, education and dissemination.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the birth of our journal "Environmental Engineering: research and technology", and look forward to many future editions and challenges.

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