

Preface

The SQA6 (Sediment Quality Assessment) held in Antwerp, Belgium from August 17-20, 2004 was the sixth in a series of symposia organized by the Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society (AEHMS) since the series was initiated in 1994. Since its beginning the number of participants has increased steadily reflecting the growing interest in the problems and issues related to sediment quality and its management which has evolved to cover risk management at the watershed level. The SQA symposia bring together international experts on sediment issues to share current practices in the fields of sediment quality assessment and management, from source to sink. The SQA6 was jointly organized by the Ecosystem Management Research Group (University of Antwerp), and the Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society. It was co-chaired by Eric de Deckere, Patrick Meire and Mohiuddin Munawar. This symposium was attended by scientists from 25 countries who actively participated with presentations of which 54 were oral, including 7 keynotes, and 24 were poster papers. All presentations were categorized in the following scientific sessions:

- I. Sediment management in river basins
- II. Risk assessment of contaminated sediments
- III. Origin, transport and quantity of sediments
- IV. Sediments in a changing environment
- V. Eco(toxico)logical risk assessment
- VI. Sediment quality guidelines

The SQA6 Symposium Committee decided to publish a special issue of Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management dedicated to the symposium. Twenty-one papers were submitted and were subjected to standard peer review. Twelve of them accepted, revised, and edited for inclusion in this special issue.

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