
Preface

A World Clean Air Congress of the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA) was held in Vancouver, British Columbia in September 2010, and contained a number of sessions on air quality management. This book originated in a session that Eric Taylor organized on Canadian Air Quality Management. Seven people presented information at this session on topics ranging from a history of air quality management in Canada to the fledgling Air Quality Health Index. Dr. Alan Gertler, technical chair of the World Clean Air Congress, attended this session and recommended that its seven presentations be brought together into a book. This was the spark that ignited this project.

The scope and depth of the original idea has since mushroomed, with the book now having a much expanded scope. Of the original seven presenters, only three ended up contributing a chapter to this book. As we discussed the project, we soon realized that Canadian approaches to air quality management are unique. This offered an opportunity for a team of authors to document the Canadian approach with all its quirks and promise. As a result, the final tally of chapters has blossomed to twenty and the number of authors to forty-three. We wholeheartedly thank these authors for their enthusiasm and generosity in contributing to this book.

One of the key principles that Alan Gertler stressed in sending us on this long and unfamiliar journey was that the book should be written in a way that would help developing countries in planning an air quality program. It was this approach that persuaded us to take on this project. It has shaped the style and content of the book, and required us to make it readable by a wide audience. Hopefully the result of this long project has gone some distance in achieving Alan's vision.

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