



Some achievements of the Committee H "Soil Pollution, Degradation and Remediation"

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The Soil System Sciences (SSS) Division, created by J. Weber in 2002 in the EGU, consists of 12 Committees, which cover significant topics of basic and applied Soil Science. One of them is the Committee H, dedicated to "Soil Pollution, Degradation and Remediation". This Committee had been active since 2004, and has organised 14 Sessions (i.e. SSS7, 2004, Nice, SSSS7, 2005, Vienna, SSS17, 2006, Vienna, etc. . . until SSS9.1, 2012, the present session). The title of the SSS7 Session (2004, Nice) was the same as the Committee "Soil pollution, degradation and remediation" and received 30 Contributions. The present Session SSS9.1 has received 40 Contributions. Since 2004 the 14 Sessions have included more than 400 Contributions (Oral and Poster) by applicants from more than 40 countries (european and extraeuropean). A good number of these contributions ("in extenso" papers) have been published in international journals. A selection of complete originals from these Sessions have been published in five Special Issues of the Journal of Geochemical Exploration, i.e.: Trace elements in Soils: baseline levels and imbalance (2008), Selenium and Iodine anomalies in Soils and health (2010), Pedogegeochemical Mapping of Potentially Toxic Elements (2011), Reclamation of Mining Site Soils (2012) and "Phytoremediation of Polluted Soils" (in press).

I conclude this overview our Committee H's work between 2003 and 2012 with a brief discussion of several examples.

Finally, I would like to thank the founder of the SSS Division Prof. Dr. J. Weber for his outstanding work, as well as his successors Profs. T. Miano and A. Cerdà for continuing his excellent work.