

International Networks on Contaminated Land

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INTRODUCTION

Contaminated land remains high on the agenda of environmental and regeneration issues for most countries. Not surprisingly, experts in different countries have formed various networks to share expertise on the subject, and to co-ordinate research, development and demonstration activities. These international networks are essential to avoid unnecessary duplication of R&D activities on a national basis, and to develop a broader basis of scientific peer reviews. They assess the international state of the art and identify priority research needs to improve current knowledge. The results from these international initiatives provide useful sources of information for practitioners in the field.

This paper summarises some of the main international networks on contaminated land, highlights their objectives and results, and refers to related internet sources for further information.

CONTAMINATED LAND NETWORKS IN EUROPE

CARACAS – Concerted Action on Risk Assessment for Contaminated Land

CARACAS (1996–1998) was set up as part of the Environment and Climate RTD Programme of the European Commission. Scientists and policy specialists from 16 European countries have carried out the work programme which focused on the following research areas: human toxicology; ecological risk assessment; fate and transport of contaminants; site investigation and analysis; models; screening and guideline values; and risk assessment methodologies.

A major outcome of CARACAS has been the publication of two books (Ferguson *et al.* 1998; Ferguson and Kasamas 1999). The first covers the scientific basis for risk assessment in Europe. The second volume provides authoritative reviews of policy and practice relating to risk assessment of contaminated sites in the 16 contributing countries. These books can be ordered from LQM Press (e-mail: jane.burroughs@nottingham.ac.uk). Order forms are available on the CLARINET website (www.clarinet.at) and the Caracas website (www.caracas.at).

CLARINET – Contaminated Land Rehabilitation Network for Environmental Technologies in Europe

The Concerted Action CLARINET analyses key issues in decision-making processes for the management of contaminated land. It identifies priority research needs for the sustainable management of contaminated land in Europe. It focuses on: brownfield redevelopment, protection of water resources, decision support, remediation technologies and techniques, human and ecological aspects of land reuse, and collaboration of RTD Programmes in Europe. CLARINET brings together the combined knowledge of academics, government experts, consultants, industrial land-owners and technology developers from 16 European countries. It started in July 1998 as part of the European Commission's Environment & Climate Programme and will continue till mid 2001. Further information can be obtained from the CLARINET website www.clarinet.at

NICOLE – Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Europe

NICOLE is a network for the stimulation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge about all aspects of industrially contaminated land. Its members come from industrial companies (problem holders), service providers/technology developers, universities and independent research organisations (problem solvers). The network started in February 1996 as a Concerted Action under the 4th Framework Programme of the EC. Since

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February 1999 NICOLE has been self-supporting, financed by the fees of its members. Further information is available at the NICOLE website www.nicole.org

RACE – Risk Abatement Centre for Contaminated Soil in CEE Countries

RACE was established by the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice/Poland in 1996 to meet the need for comprehensive and cost-effective environmental risk assessment and risk reduction strategies in the central and eastern European countries (CEE). Its major task is to facilitate co-operation in the field of risk abatement in CEE countries. It aims to contribute to the development of risk-based standards for soil and groundwater remediation in CEE countries, similar to those in the EU. Further information is available at www.race.katowice.pl/

SENSPOL – Thematic Network for Monitoring Water Pollution

SENSPOL began in August 2000. This new European Thematic Network aims to enhance the development of sensors for monitoring environmental pollutants in water, contaminated soil and sediments. It aims to enhance the development of chemical sensors, biosensors and biomimetic systems for practical applications in the abatement of water pollution from contaminated land, landfills and sediments. Further information is available at www.cranfield.ac.uk/biotech/senspol.htm

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS WORLD-WIDE

Ad Hoc International Working Group for Contaminated Land

This network was initiated in 1993. Participants are representatives from environmental ministries and agencies (more than 20 different countries world-wide) and international organisations (such as FAO, OECD). The Ad Hoc Working Group covers aspects of contaminated land policies, particularly legislative and administrative approaches. The Ad Hoc Group performed world-wide surveys on various issues related to the management of contaminated land programmes to evaluate the current state of the art of contaminated land policies and approaches, and to predict future developments. In 1999, the Ad Hoc Group initiated a

sister network for CEE Countries (CEE Forum).

IHPA – The International HCH & Pesticides Association

The IHPA was founded in July 1998 with the aim of facilitating and promoting international co-operation and the exchange of information about environmental problems arising from the production and use of HCH and other unwanted pesticides world-wide. The IHPA supports work towards sustainable solutions in the production and application of pesticides. Further information is available on the IHPA website at hjem.get2net.dk/HCH-Pesticides

ISO TC 190/SC 7: Soil Quality – Soil and Site Assessment

The scope of ISO TC 190/SC 7 is to prepare international standards for the reuse of soil material and for the assessment of possible groundwater impact due to contaminated soil, ecotoxicological aspects of soil investigations and possible effects caused by human exposure to contaminated soils for various exposure pathways.

NATO/CCMS Pilot Study – Evaluation of Demonstrated and Emerging Technologies for the Treatment of Contaminated Land and Groundwater

This pilot study is now in its third phase, which will run from 1998 to 2002, with a final report available in 2003. The Pilot Study is designed to identify and evaluate innovative, emerging and alternative remediation technologies and to transfer technical performance and economic information on these technologies to decision-makers and potential users. Innovative remediation projects are selected by the Pilot Study Group to be scrutinised, and the performance of these projects is reported upon annually. Comprehensive reports are available for download at clu-in.org/intup.htm#International

FURTHER INFORMATION

News and updates about international networks in general are available on www at:

- www.clarinet.at
- www.r3environmental.co.uk
- clu-in.org/intup.htm