

Wise, D.L., Trantolo, D.J., Cichon, E.J., Inyang, H.I., Stottmeister, U. (ed.): **Bioremediation of Contaminated Soils**. (Environmental Science and Pollution Control Series. Vol. 22.) - Marcel Dekker, New York - Basel 2000. 903 pp. USD 235.00. ISBN 0-8247-0333-2.

Decades of industrial growth have left soil and water contaminated with a combination of toxic and potentially carcinogenic organic compounds and heavy metals. The damage of environment substantially affects our health and welfare. Due to the expense of conventional engineering techniques, reaching over 500.00 USD per ton, it is not surprising that the cleanup of contaminated sites has not been proceeded rapidly. The use of biological techniques can strongly reduce this cost.

The book *Bioremediation of Contaminated Soils* provides an up-to-date source of technical information relating to current and potential remediation practices. Over 150 recognized experts provide an in-depth treatment of this rapidly growing field, which draws its resource from many disciplines and countries. The authors have deliberately solicited input from governmental, industrial and academic specialists to ensure a multidimensional and multinational presentation of the hazardous waste remediation scheme that are shaping our environmental outlook.

The book is divided into four parts: Bioremediation techniques (15 chapters), Bioremediation of hydrocarbon-

contaminated materials (14 chapters), Soil-specific bioremediation techniques (12 chapters), and Phytoremediation (7 chapters). The individual chapters are focused either on traditional or on emerging technologies in remediation, with special attention to exciting developments in bioremediation.

However, the book is not a comprehensive survey of the respective field. Its structure resembles more symposium proceedings than a monography. General introduction is missing and choose of topics seems to be a little bit by chance. Some of chapters are of general character, but others are very specialized. Each chapter is quite independent article with own list of references. Therefore it is not surprising that in Introductions to individual chapters we can find some repetitions.

Nevertheless, the book will certainly contribute to the progress in this important global field. It can be recommended to everybody searching for deep and up-to-date technical information in the certain narrow fields.

The book is well produced. Text of each chapter is accompanied with many tables, figures and photographs which attract the reader's attention.

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