## **Acknowledgements**

"Croucher Advanced Study Institutes" (ASI) are a new funding initiative of the Croucher Foundation catering to the interests of established scientists. The main objective of the ASI program is to regularly bring to Hong Kong leading international experts in specific fields, to conduct refresher programs for a limited number of established scientists in highly focused scientific topics.

The financial support from the Croucher Foundation is gratefully acknowledged. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong), Middlesex University (UK), Nanjing Institute of Soil Science and Zhongshan University (PR China) for co-organizing the event and all the authors for their contributions.

I would also like to thank Dr John Waughman (Durham City, UK) for his invaluable comments on all the papers and Ms Doris Ng (Hong Kong Baptist University) for her expert editorial assistance.

Ming H. Wong, PhD, DSc (Durham), MBA, DSc (Strathclyde)
Director/Chair Professor
Croucher Institute for Environmental Sciences