

## PREFACE

In 1997, Kalmar celebrated the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Union between the Nordic Countries. More than 200 seminars and conferences were held during that historical celebration in Kalmar. The Conference on Waste Management and Environment — Establishment of cooperation between the Nordic Countries and the countries in the Baltic Sea region was held on November 5 – 7 that year. The conference was considered very successful and I was asked to organize the conference again and try to make it a tradition with a return period of 2 years.

The second conference was held under the title Kalmar ECO-TECH'99 — Seminar on Ecological Technology and Management, on September 22 – 24, 1999. The effort during this conference was not only to build bridge of knowledge and information between the countries and over the Baltic Sea but also between the Nature and Technology sciences as well as between researches/teachers, engineers at companies/industries, city engineers and administrators dealing with environmental issues. The emphasis was directed towards the representatives of the small and medium size enterprises by including them among speakers or participants of the conference.

The third conference was directed towards “Leachate and Waste Water Treatment with High-Tech and Natural Systems” and carried out in cooperation between these three departments: Department of Technology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Baltic Business School at the University of Kalmar. The goals of Kalmar ECO-TECH'01 were to provide a forum for knowledge exchange and networking between businesses, universities and local authorities dealing with leachate and waste water treatment. The main objective of the conference was to get together to increase knowledge synergies and cooperation over subject borders.

This fourth conference Kalmar ECO-TECH'03 ”Bioremediation and Leachate Treatment” is focused on soil and wastewater treatment in order to protect groundwater and surface water for further contamination. The objective is to increase knowledge and cooperation over relevant subjects to Sustainable Environmental Technology development in the Baltic Sea area. The conference is build on the successful concept of the three previous conferences in developing and establishing new areas of cooperation between the business sector, the academic sector and policy-makers. As an outcome of Kalmar ECO-TECH'01, the network “Sustainable Leachate and Waste Water Management using High-tech and Natural Systems” was established. The second meeting of the network was held at the 4-th Youth Environmental Forum ECOBALTICA'2002 held in St. Petersburg, Russia and thrd meeting will be held as a part of this conference. During 2004 the State-of-the-Art report will be produced by the network.

As part of Kalmar ECO-TECH'03, women from different countries working with Environmental Engineering were invited to the conference in order to increase the interest among women in the subject. This invitation was made possible with financial support from the Swedish Institute.

KALMAR ECO-TECH'03  
Bioremediation and Leachate Treatment  
KALMAR, SWEDEN, November 25-27, 2003

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