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Selected Peer-Reviewed Papers from the Arsenic Session of the 6th International Conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements, July 29 – August 2, 2001, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Anne Vindenes Allen TheScientificWorld U.K.

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KEY WORDS: ecotoxicology, bioavailability, adsorption reactions on soils and sediments, chemical speciation and bioavailability, arsenic fate and transport, human and animal health

DOMAINS: environmental chemistry, terrestrial environmental toxicology, soil systems, toxicology, bioremediation and bioavailability

The International Conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements (ICOBTE) was held at the University of Guelph from July 29 to August 2, 2001. This highly successful conference series is held every 2 years, and in 2001 over 600 delegates from over 50 countries from around the world listened to over 300 oral presentations and viewed over 300 poster presentations during the 4-day event. Lead sponsor was Ontario Power Generation; other supporters included Soil Science Society of America, Environment Canada, University of Guelph, The Royal Bank of Canada, INCO Ltd., Rio Algom Ltd., Falconbridge Ltd., International Lead and Zinc Research Organization (ILZRO), Inc., Varian Canada Inc., Canadian Society of Soil Science, Mandel Scientific Co. Ltd., and the International Society of Trace Element Biogeochemistry.

Conference themes dealt with many trace element issues including: ecotoxicology; bioavailability; adsorption reactions on soils and sediments; chemical speciation and bioavailability; arsenic and mercury fate and transport; and human and animal health. In addition, ten Special Symposia sessions were organized by world-renowned trace element specialists and included topics such as: biosorption; natural attenuation in soils; metal speciation and bioavailability; phytoremediation; geochemical surface controls on trace element fate; and temporal trends of trace metals in biota. Each day the conference hosted poster sessions that complimented the oral presentations.

The Scientific World is pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of peer-reviewed research papers from the session on Arsenic in *The Scientific World JOURNAL* under the Guest Editorship of Dr. Muhammad Sadiq. Dr. Sadiq of the Department of Land Resource Science, University of Guelph was Conference Co-Chair along with Dr. Les Evans (Chair) and Dr. Beverly Hale (Co-Chair), also of the University of Guelph. Papers will be published immediately upon peer-review and acceptance to ensure rapid international dissemination of the research

represented. The Publisher wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Sadiq, as well as the efforts of the authors and reviewers, in bringing together this collection.

Anne Vindenes Allen

Senior Editorial Director – Europe TheScientificWorld

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