Preface

ISMOM 2008: 5th International Symposium on Interactions of Soil Minerals with Organic Components and Microorganisms

Commission 2.5 Soil Physical/Chemical/Biological Interfacial Reactions of the International Union of Soil Sciences

This special issue of the *Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition* contains the plenary papers, keynote lectures, and abstracts of the oral and poster papers presented at ISMOM2008 in Pucón, Chile (24–28 November 2008).

The objective of the symposium is to bring together environmental chemists, mineralogists, microbiologists, ecologists, toxicologists, and soil scientists to share information, identify gaps in knowledge, and stimulate research on the physicochemical and biological interfacial interactions in the soil environment, with special focus on the soil-root interface (rhizosphere). The five session themes, listed below, reflect this objective.

Four plenary lectures, 11 keynote addresses, 47 oral papers, and 157 posters were presented over five days during the following sessions:

1. Ecological Significance of Interactions among Clay Minerals, Organic Matter and Biota
2. Soil-Root-Microbe Interactions and their Effects on the Transformation and Bioavailability of Nutrients
3. Soil-Root-Microbe Interactions and their Effects on the Biophysical Transformation, Fate, and Toxicity of Metals and Metalloids
4. Dynamics and Transformations of Natural and Xenobiotic Compounds in Soil Environments
5. Environmental Biotechnology: Biochemical and Molecular Mechanisms of Microbe-Plant-Root Interactions and their Genomics and Proteomic Advances pertaining to Restoration of Contaminated Sites

The symposium was attended by over 200 participants from the following countries:

Argentina (5), Australia (6), Austria (2), Brazil (6), Canada (11), Chile (79), China (6), Croatia (1), Dominican Republic (1), France (14), Germany (1), Hong Kong (1), Hungary (3), India (7), Indonesia (2), Iran (6), Ireland (2), Italy (12), Japan (2), Kazakhstan (1), Korea (1), Latvia (2), Malaysia (1), México (11), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (1), Pakistan (3), Paraguay (2), Russian Federation (3), Saudi Arabia (1), Slovenia (1), Spain (6), Sweden (2), Thailand (4), USA (3), Venezuela (8).

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ISMOM2008

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