



## Preface

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident, initiated by the Great East Japan Earthquake, has resulted in environmental pollution across eastern Japan, especially in Fukushima Prefecture. The amount of radioactive substances released was far less than from the Chernobyl accident, and only radionuclide cesium has needed to be controlled. It was a daunting challenge, however, to implement the necessary countermeasures while obtaining a community consensus in the heavily populated country of Japan with its advanced information orientation. One of the main factors that made implementation of the countermeasures more challenging was a lack of necessary scientific knowledge for decision-making by policy makers. Nevertheless, Japan's academic circles and industrial sectors have been making steady progress in research and development toward environmental restoration.

This special issue focuses on research and development toward restoration from environmentally radioactive pollution caused by the nuclear accident, and provides an integrated body of relevant scientific knowledge collected to date. The articles in this issue cover a wide range of topics, including a study on the environmental dynamics of radioactive substances and its impact on ecosystems, and the adoption and evaluation of decontamination and contaminated waste treatment technologies. Many articles have been provided by researchers of the National Institute for Environmental Studies and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, Japan's leading research institutes in the environmental and nuclear fields, respectively. We are profoundly grateful for their contribution of valuable scientific knowledge and technical expertise in the midst of their hard work toward environmental restoration, and strongly hope that this information will be utilized in Japan's steady environmental restoration efforts in the years to come.

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