

PREFACE

The following Proceedings represent the main outcome of **The 3rd International Workshop on Fluorosis Prevention and Defluoridation of Water** that took place in **Chiang Mai, Thailand, on November 20th – 24th, year 2000**. Ninety-six participants from 13 countries, out of which 10 developing countries, were presented in the Workshop. The Workshop was a follow up of **The 1st International Workshop** that took place in **Ngurdoto, Arusha Region, Tanzania** October 18th-22, 1995 and **The 2nd International Workshop** that took place in Nazareth, Ethiopia, November 19th-25th 1997. On the contrary to previous workshops, the participants of the present arranged for their sponsorship on individual basis.

The final session of this 3rd Workshop was arranged as a study of the recently published World Health Organization Monograph on Fluoride: ***“WHO draft publication WSH/DRAFT/99.9 Fluoride in Drinking Water”***. Recognising the special environmental health conditions in fluorotic areas, as found mainly in developing countries, a lively discussion followed the presentation of the Monograph. During the discussion, it was decided to work out a response to WHO expressing the participant’s shared consensus on certain issues as mentioned in the Draft Publication. The response was then sent to WHO and a copy of it can be seen as the final proceeding in this publication.

The Proceedings of this Workshop, as well as the previous Workshops, are made available at non-profit costs. Further information is made available at the indicated homepages: <http://De-Fluoride.net/> and <http://www.icoh.org/>

On the behalf of the International Organising Committee I would like to address thanks to **The Intercountry Centre for Oral Health, ICOH, The National Organising Committee** and especially its **Chairperson Director Sunsanee Rajchagool** for the perfectly sat up and masterly managed Workshop. Also special thanks to Dr. Nipaphan Osiriphan for her effective and careful handling of the paper manuscripts and to Dr. Wuttichai Choompolkul for his patience IT assistance in the editorial processing.

Eli Dahi,

Chairman of the International Committee