

EDITORIAL

Mainstreaming of Cross-Cutting Issues and Findings in Environmental and Occupational Health Field

This special issue of Environmental and Occupational Health explores various environmental exposures which influence human health impacts and burden of disease. Furthermore, exposure to workplace hazards and risk factors leading to numerous human health impacts and burden of disease were also discussed. Understanding both environmental and occupational exposures will be able to fill the critical gap of exposure likelihood, human health impacts and burden of disease. This understanding will also offer insights on environmental and occupational related research directions, policy and regulations as well as implementation strategies.

This current special issue of Environmental and Occupational Health covers diverse cross-cutting issues through different study designs, approach, sampling techniques and target populations. Remarkable and cross-cutting research findings from local and international studies has been documented. Environmental health studies have been covered from chemical contamination of bottled water to food which can contribute to human health impacts and risks such as cancer. Studies on repeated use of cooking oil, e-cigarette and heavy metals contamination of paddy farm water and watershed areas which are used as drinking water source have been conducted to indicate public health concern. The wide use of drinking water in plastic bottles which could lead to exposure to bisphenol A released from the plastic and its related risk as well as children's exposure to air pollution and associated gene impairment was also explored. On the other hand, occupational health studies have addressed hazards exposed by occupational groups (policemen and farmers) due to their outdoor environmental pollutants such as ambient air pollutant, heavy metal, pesticide and increased heat due to global warming. Besides, these studies were also focused on occupational workers risk factors leading to various health impacts. Furthermore, mental health condition of these occupational workers also has been assessed to promote a healthy working environment.

Reflection from these studies have generated new knowledge as well as perspectives on high-priority of environmental and occupational research areas. These

studies have applied theoretically-grounded knowledge to assess environmental and occupational health hazard implications in our daily life. Framing the future direction of Environmental and Occupational Health studies, this special issue has pointed out few main key ideas as future research strategies. Environmental and occupational studies must select appropriate study designs that investigate specific research problems in line with the national and international agenda and needs. Better study designs for the development of long term observational studies will be able to understand exposure likelihood, burden of disease and human health impacts. Focused and scientific groundwork of the research problem will help to give rise to new multidisciplinary studies involving national and international collaborations. As highlighted by the findings in the special issue, environmental and occupational studies have also highlighted few critical gaps which needs further focus. Limited linkages between government ministries, stakeholders, policy and regulation were mentioned in the research findings. Furthermore, there is also a crucial need to strengthen associations with various public health centres, NGOs and communities to ensure these research findings are being shared along with outreach opportunities.

To conclude the special issue, these study findings have provided valuable input for the implementation of environmental health policies at local and international levels in line with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Prof. Dr. Zailina Hashim
Lead Guest Editor

Associate Prof. Dr Juliana Jalaludin
Associate Prof. Dr Sarva Mangala Praveena
Associate Guest Editor

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health,
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences,
Universiti Putra Malaysia