

PREFACE

I first heard about Prof. Michele Mossa from my colleague Roberto Ranzi, who had invited him to give a lecture as part of a *Short Course on Stream Gauging* (Brescia), a refresher course aimed at people working in the sector, PhD students and interested professionals and students.

On this occasion, I immediately struck up a fine relationship with Michele, appreciating both the subtlety and precision of his thought and his kindness and helpfulness. I am proud to say that we soon built up a relationship founded on mutual respect and trust, that led me, as organizer of the *XXXIII Italian Congress of Hydraulics and Hydraulic Constructions* (Brescia, 10-14 September 2012), to ask him to participate in a number of initiatives. During these activities I was able to further appreciate his scientific and human qualities. I was particularly impressed by his *invited lecture* on the theme, chosen by the Author himself, of the dispersion of pollutants in environmental flows.

The lecture, which later became a short monograph, is in the process of being published by the Organizing Committee of the above mentioned congress. However, due to the great interest shown in this lecture by many researchers, Prof. Mossa asked me to publish the extract before the congress volume is released. I do this willingly, in the hope that the article may not only be read by congress participants, but instead reach a much wider readership.

It is a thoughtful, well considered and intelligent work of great weight, which well represents the talents of the author. I hope that the reader will make fruitful use of the article and that Prof. Mossa will continue to provide us with similar work in the future.

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