

COMMENTARY

AMS Chief Scientist Michael West, Ph.D., Reflects on Earth Day and Shares His Views on Water Quality and Environmental Challenges

April 22 marked the celebration of the global environmental movement — [Earth Day](#). As we begin the countdown to Earth Day's 50th Anniversary in 2020, I think about the roles we all play in driving an impactful environmental change.

By some cosmic roll-of-the-dice, I had the good fortune to be brought up in New Zealand, where the unique geography and climate provided abundant fresh water and clean air. In my youth, I was conscious of the good quality of my environmental assets, and naively assumed that access to pure water and air was enjoyed by the vast majority of the world's population with the exception of some regions challenged by high population densities and heavy industry.

But a long life of global travel has revealed a different truth. Environmental challenges are the global norm. Most of the world's population breath air burdened with particles and molecular toxins, and drink water tainted with contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals and carcinogens, mostly caused by industrial activities.

I often reflect on the lottery of life, particularly one's birth location, and have decided that healthy air and water should be a universal right, regardless of your global address, particularly when there is so much that can be done to mitigate these environmental problems.

Protection of the environment requires rigorous science, technological solutions, stringent regulations that set limits on pollution and contamination of our air and water, and good practices by us all.

I have a personal passion for science and technology, and the good fortune to apply my talents professionally to the development of instrumentation that assists the drinking water treatment industry in the delivery of healthy water to the taps of their consumers. This is my way of making peace with my conscience; a small boy in New Zealand is no more deserving of good quality air and water than my own children who are growing up half way around the world.

I encourage everyone to join the movement not just on April 22, but everyday, to help drive environmental stewardship.

About Michael West, Ph.D.

Michael West holds a Ph.D. in synthetic organometallic chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. He developed and patented the analytical techniques required for the monitoring the concentrations of organic and inorganic components of solutions used in the manufacture of semiconductor devices by electrodeposition and etching, as well as contaminants in water. As the Chief Scientist at [Aqua Metrology Systems Ltd.](#), West has been instrumental in the development of the broad suite of online monitors and offline analyzers offered by the company.



Aqua Metrology Systems

1225 E. Arques Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
United States

© 2019 Aqua Metrology Systems, Ltd. 4/19

CONTACT

t: +1 408 523 1900
e: info@aquametrologysystems.com
w: www.aquametrologysystems.com

