

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

Summary 2/2005

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Minister of Environment's Award

An information about this year's Minister of Environment's Award that the Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic granted on the occasion of the World's Environment Day. It is a non-financial appreciation for outstanding results or long-term contribution in the field of environmental protection and environmental policy development. Minister of Environment's Award was given to the village of Turčianska Štiavnička, the NGO Society for Birds Protection in Slovakia, the PEhAES Prešov joint stock company, the Slovak Water Management Company, branch Bratislava, the Primary School Letná Poprad, the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava and to the university pedagogue prof. Ivan Vološčuk, CSc.

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Prevention not only in connection with health

Darina Kobzová, MoE SR

The Act No. 261/2002 Coll. On the prevention of major industrial accidents and on amendments to certain acts as well as relevant implementing regulations deal with the comprehensive programme of major industrial accidents prevention. The subject of the legal regulation according to this Act is setting of conditions and procedures for the prevention of major industrial accidents in companies and their readiness to overcome and mitigate their impacts on human life and health, environment and property.

page 3

New principles in the prevention of major industrial accidents
Henrieta Čajková, Tomáš Treka, MoE SR

Council Directive 96/82/EC On the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, the so called SEVESO II, is one of key directives of the European Union in the field of industrial pollution and risk management. This Directive includes specific obligations of operators and relevant authorities relating to installations with selected hazardous substances from the point of view of risk management of possible major industrial accidents. The Slovak Republic, during the accession process, has fully transposed the SEVESO II Directive in the Act No. 261/2002 Coll. On major industrial accidents prevention and on amendments to certain acts, which came into force on 1st July 2002. At present, after almost 3 years of this Act's efficiency, it was necessary to amend the Act for several reasons.

page 4-5

Information system of the major industrial accidents prevention
Margita Galková, Erich Pacola, SEA

Increased number of major accidents was a motivation for the collection of information on reasons and consequences of accidents, on installations and risk activities, on chemical substances that cause major accidents as well as information concerning examinations of these accidents. The Slovak Republic responded to the need of the information system creation and the updated Act No. 261/2002 comes into force on 1 July 2005. The operator of the Information system of the major industrial accidents prevention, named also SEVESO, is the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MoE SR) and it was created by the Slovak Environmental Agency. The system has two versions – one for public and the other for the state administration. It is an expandable system based on modern internet technologies.

page 6-7

The role of the Chemical Safety Department of the Slovak Environmental Agency
Monika Kissová, SEA

The Chemical Safety Department was established in 1997 at the Slovak Environmental Agency's Centre of Waste Management and Environmental Management in Bratislava in order to provide for activities connected with environmental protection from unfavourable impacts of chemical substances. The author of the article describes tasks and activities of the department that, after the adoption of the Act No. 24/2004 Coll., fulfils also the task of the authorized organisation entrusted with keeping and updating of the list of contaminated installations with the contents of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

page 7

REACH – the reform of the valid EU legislation for chemical substances
Rudolfa Rothova, MoE SR

Main objectives of the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization of Chemicals) regulation include public health and environmental protection from adverse affects of chemical substances, improvement of competitive ability and innovation potential of European industry, efficient operation of the market with chemicals and support of the reduction of animal tests. By means of the REACH system the valid legislation of the European Union for the field of chemicals placing in the market will be reformed principally. The article brings information about the contents of the proposed regulation.

page 8-9

Warning symbols

Pursuant to § 23 of the Act No. 163/2001 Coll. as amended, dangerous chemical substances and chemical preparations must be clearly marked on their packages by graphic warning symbols with the verbal indication of danger. The journal and its enclosure bring warning symbols and the list of dangerous substances.

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Selected dangerous substances according to SEVESO II (4)

Katarína Palúchová

In the fourth part of the series we present formaldehyde (CH₂O) called also methanal. In room's temperature this is colourless, combustible gas with a distinctive acrid smell. The article presents formaldehyde in relation to environment and health. It shows formaldehyde effects on experimental animals and maps the situation in Slovakia.

page 10

Civil defence and SEVESO II

Ronald Roth, Civil Defence Office of the Ministry of Interior

The main task of the civil defence in Slovakia is the protection of life, health and property. Besides tasks and measures ensuing from the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 42/1994 Coll. On civil defence as amended and the Act No. 129/2002 Coll. On integrated rescue system the civil defence has to fulfil tasks resulting for it also from EU Directive the so called SEVESO II that are included in the Act No. 261/2002 Coll. On the prevention of major industrial accidents and on amendments to certain acts. The article also deals with the role of civil defence in the field of emergency and land-use planning and building proceedings as well as in the field of inspection activity.

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Environmental loads are a burden for all of us

Vlasta Jánová, MoE SR

Environmental policy for the field of environmental loads is in Slovakia at present just in initial phases of its political cycle. The first phase, consisting of a problem detecting started after 1989 when environmental protection became an important part of individual political parties' programmes. However, insufficient attention was paid to environmental loads in the following decade in Slovakia and it was underestimated especially during the privatization process. The Programme Declaration of the present Slovak Government that was approved in November 2002, emphasizes, in the field of environmental protection, the need of building environmental infrastructure as one of conditions for entry in EU. Old environmental loads displacement is considered to be one of priorities.

page 12-14

Ultraviolet radiation and skin cancer

Vladimír Bartoš, university teacher

Statistics of malignance occurrence show increasing tendency. Skin cancer occurrence, especially malignant melanoma, increases doubly every decade. This trend is caused mainly by a permanent reduction of the ozone layer enabling thus penetration of the larger quantity of ultraviolet radiation on the Earth surface. Ultraviolet radiation causes three most frequent malignant skin tumours – malignant melanoma, basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma.

page 15

Old ecological loads in the Czech Republic
Jaroslav Zima, Pavla Kačabová, MoE CR

The authors write about environmental loads displacement during the privatisation process, displacement of damages caused by the Soviet Army, about old ecological loads removed according to the Act No. 254/2001 Coll. and also on the basis of the Government decree.

They inform also about revitalisation of sites damaged by brown coal and black coal mining.
page 16-17

Envirofilm in the token of records and the Green World's jubilee
Anna Gudzová, Anna Ďuricová

Manifold mosaic of happenings during the 11th International Environmental Film Festival that took place in Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica and Zvolen in May.

page 18-19

Undiscovered nature secrets attract him
Anna Gudzová

The mountaineer, traveller, adventurer and discoverer Peter Ondrejovič, called Becko, was one of the 11th Envirofilm guests. He was one of the initiators and participants of expeditions to the river Omo and Amazonia. Films from these expeditions Omo – Journey to Primeval Age and Amazonia Vertical directed by Pavol Barabáš represent successfully Slovakia all over the world. In the interview, Peter Becko Ondrejovič speaks about his experiences and adventures from the expeditions and also about when a why he climbed his first rock.

page 20-21

A song about Muráň, about a stone and a spring
Peter Glocko

The Slovak writer Peter Glocko, who participated as a guest in this year's Envirofilm, pays a tribute to the region of Muráň. With a poetic pen he describes the origin of Muráň, Muráň castle, beauties of surrounding nature and adds a story about Muráň Solomon, Mária Séčiová spring and Muráň stone.

page 22-23

Waste or raw material?
Peter Farárik

The seminar on the prevention of waste origination, collection, sorting and recovery was one of accompanying events of the 11th Envirofilm in Banská Bystrica. It was organised by the Slovak Environmental Agency and was intended for representatives of self-governments,

schools, NGO and wide public. Following subjects were discussed at the seminar: Recycling Fund, problems of car wrecks, municipal sphere, electronic waste and ecological packages.
page 24

Separated waste is not just a saying for us
Miroslava Košťálová

The article describes experience with waste separation at the Primary School at Topoľova street in Nitra. The school has been collecting PET bottles for four years already.
page 25

Herb spiral and a lake at school
Jana Júdová, Associated Secondary School of Agriculture in Liptovský Mikuláš

The seminar “School garden as an ecological area”, together with a practical training, took place this year at the Associated Secondary School of Agriculture in Liptovský Mikuláš. After the theoretical part, seminar participants created an ecological area at the school garden – a herb spiral and a lake.
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Earth’s Day by children’s eyes
Mária Potočková, Branislav Palík, Environmental District Office in Považská Bystrica

People all over the world have been commemorating the Earth’s Day for 35 years already. The Environmental District Office in Považská Bystrica organises every year together with schools various events focused on raising of ecological awareness of children and students. They collected paper, plastics, multilayer packages, iron scrap and all that does not belong to landfills and in cooperation with the Environmental District Office they were working around the school and village and planting trees. Teachers and students want to organise the week devoted to environmental protection also next year.
page 26

Spring under the Sitno hill
Barbora Úradníková, SEA, Geopark Environmental Education Centre

Three years ago the idea of issuing the Regional Textbook of the Banská Štiavnica Region focused on environmental education for the first grade of primary schools, originated. At the textbook presentation in January 2003 another project originated – the animation programme The Spring under the Sitno Hill. This year it was organised for the 3rd time already in the Svätý Anton Museum and 263 children participated in it.
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Hypericum – the High Tatras 2005
Alexandra Salajová, SEA, Orlík Environmental Education Centre

In Tatranská Štrba, for the first time in Poprad region, the Hypericum competition about nature was held at the beginning of May. It was organised by SEA’s Environmental Education Centre Orlík Spišská Sobota in cooperation with the Tatra National Park Administration. Ten teams, each of three members, from 10 Poprad primary schools participated in the competition.

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Criminality concerning birds in Slovakia

Marek Brinzík, Society for Birds Protection

In 2002, a special common database of NGOs that are members of the Association for Birds Protection in Slovakia (SOVS) and Birds of Prey in Slovakia (RPS) was created. It includes at present 697 criminal cases concerning birds, namely 3,094 individuals and 194 species of birds. The author of the article describes concrete cases registered in 2004 and the massacre of rooks near the village of Topoľnica in the Galanta district at the beginning of May 2005.

page 28-29

Nature conditions of North-East Brazil (3)

Jozef Kobza, Soil and Nature Protection Research Institute, Bratislava

In the final part of the narration about nature conditions of North-East Brazil the author describes natural zones of this region and its specialties.

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Historical bases of environmental policy and environmental legislation (VII)

Jozef Klinda

Majority of ancient Egyptian towns perished and just ruins or hills remained. However, some of them have been tenanted up till now. For example 2,500-year old town of Medinet Maadi with Sobeka and Renenutet (patron of fertility and children) temples ensured its “sustainable development” probably on the basis of “sustainable stagnation”. The author of the article focuses on the fortune of ancient cultural monuments and historical structure of the landscape that started to be endangered after the construction of Aswan Old Dam (1898-1912) and especially New Dam (1960-1971).

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Photo competition

The picture made by Juraj Pavlík captures the atmosphere of a Sunday morning at the beginning of summer near the village of Kostolná-Záriečie (Trenčín district).

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World Heritage

Belgium - Flemish Beguinages

Albania – Butrint

Bulgaria – Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak

Bulgaria – Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari

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