

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

Summary 3/2005

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We shall be recycling electronic waste

Since 13 August 2005, all producers and importers of electronic equipment in EU are obliged to provide for collection and recycling of their products after the products life, including the existing historical electronic waste. In Slovakia this is done on the basis of the amendment of the Act No. 223/2001 Coll. on waste and on the amendment and supplementing of certain acts published in the Collection of Laws under the number 733/2004.

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We have been on a common ship

Luboš Lopatka, President of the Industrial Ecology Association in Slovakia

In the foreword, the President of the Industrial Ecology Association in Slovakia writes that it is very important an industry deals with impacts of its activities. In the developed world, where the government and entrepreneurs know and respect environmental values, the balance of economic and environmental approaches should exist. Efficient implementation of environmental policy on sustainable development policy should be built on three pillars – legislation, economic instruments and voluntary instruments – used in mutual connection.

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Universities, entrepreneurs, industry and state administration to the same tune
Press department of MoE SR

Meetings of the Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MoE SR) László Miklós with the representatives of industry and business became a tradition. In April, the fifth meeting was held already with 120 participants from the Association of Industrial Unions of the SR, entrepreneur's unions and associations, universities and environmental sector. The event, named Environmental Policy and Industry Development in the SR was organised by MoE SR in cooperation with the Association of Industrial Unions. The most frequently discussed topics included instruments that can improve the quality of the environment, legal and economic instruments, integrated prevention and pollution control, industrial accidents and wastes. They were discussing also the implementation of the National Allocation Plan of the SR, establishing a scheme for CO₂ emission allowance for 2005-2007 and 2008-2012 and also on environmental loads and implementation of the Act No. 245/2003 on IPPC.
(page 4-6)

Danube Day
Katarína Klapáková, MoE SR

Danube Day (29 June) was held in Bratislava as well in other Danubian cities this year for the second time under the slogan – more than just water! The centre of the event, which was organised by MoE SR, was the Danube river bank in Bratislava. The participants could acquaint themselves with the work of the Slovak Water Management Company, Water Management Research Institute, Slovak Hydro meteorological Institute, etc. The event included also the photographic competition of the well known photographer and diver Peter Áč, art competitions for children with the subject Who Lives in the Danube and Its Surroundings, international school contest the Danube Art Master, etc.
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Environmental policy from the point of view of industrial unions
Jozef Uhrík, President of the Association of Industrial Unions of the SR

The President of the Association of Industrial Unions of the SR presents in his contribution the focus and basic activities, within which the Association pays permanent attention to improvement, stabilisation and transparency of the entrepreneur's environment in the Slovak Republic. He expresses his disapproval with the submitted bill on environmental loads with regard to significant negative impact on the entrepreneur's environment.
(page 8-9)

Recycling Fund and support it provides to waste recovery
Peter Farárik

The director of the Recycling Fund Ivan Zuzula answers questions about fees, Fund's partners and also about the communication with them. Towns and villages form rather a big group of partners, who are entitled to a contribution after meeting of certain criteria. The first of them is the existence of a generally binding regulation imposing on the population the duty to separate waste.
(page 10-11)

Jubilee international conference

Milan Krištof

The scientific conference Autochthonous Dendroflora and Its Use in the Landscape was held in Zvolen in June on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Borová hora Arboretum. Its objective was to draw the attention to suitability and possibility of the implementation and use of autochthonous wood species in landscape creation, to tasks of arboretums and botanic gardens, scientific institutes and universities in the field of autochthonous dendroflora protection and preservation. The author presents results of research and practice.

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Industrial policy of the European Union

Juraj Vall, SEA Banská Bystrica

EU industrial policy comes out from the EU Convention, which defines basic objectives. In the field of industrial policy EU strives to create legislative and institutional conditions suitable for the competitiveness of European companies as an efficient system of technical standardization. The document Industrial Policy in an Enlarged Europe, worked out by the European Commission in December 2002, is considered the beginning of the process of investigation of the suitability and balance of industrial policy application in enlarged Europe.

(page 12-13)

Environmental policy review

The European Commission published in January 2005 the Environmental Policy Report 2004. The objective of the publication is to evaluate the state and development in the field of environment protection and improvement in EU member states and define areas, in which the progress should be made in order to preserve sustainable development.

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Environmental regional classification of the Slovak Republic

Jozef Klinda - MoE SR, Peter Bohuš and Peter Semrád – SEA Košice

The state of the environment in the Slovak Republic is differentiated. As a result of anthropogenic activity, the loading of environmental components differs in individual regions and risk factors, limiting life quality, apply differently in them. The SEA's Centre of Environmental Regional Classification in Košice has been carrying out the analysis of the state of environmental components and the effect of individual risk factors in regions for several years already.

(page 14-15)

New trends in soil protection in the Slovak Republic

Jana Šimonová, VUPOP Bratislava

Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute in Bratislava performs expert activities in the field of agricultural soil protection – “soil service”. It carries out research and monitoring of agricultural soil and its obligations are set in the Act on soil protection.

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Reduction of CO₂ emissions – key subject of the Slovak industry

Zoltán Demján, Executive Director of the Union of Cement and Lime Producers in the SR

The author of the article interprets the opinion of the representatives of Slovak industry on the decision of the European Commission concerning the reduction of originally agreed emission quotas. According to him, the Slovak industry is discriminated by this decision and the competitiveness of Slovak producers will decrease by the eventual need to purchase more emission limits. Representatives of the Slovak industry are fully aware of their environmental responsibility but the effort to reduce emissions even more will result in the attenuation of the Slovak economy. To avoid the situation that was here the end of the last year, they suggest a proper preparation for the years 2008 – 2012 and they indicate key topics.
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Let us help the rebirth of the High Tatras

Dana Gregorová, MoE SR

Eight months after the destructive windstorm, the High Tatras mountains were hit with another disaster – fire. It broke out on 30 July at noon at a tourist footpath leading from Tatranská Polianka to Vyšné Hágy. Fire-men succeeded to choke it not earlier than after three days. This fire can be characterized as the largest one in the High Tatras during the last fifty years. It destroyed 224 ha of land in the national park. 4 basic biotopes were struck by the fire, the social value of which exceeds 1 milliard and 500 millions Slovak crowns. The disaster showed that it was necessary to amend the Project of the Forest Fire Protection. It is necessary to focus on critical areas of possible fire outbreak and ensure the prevention by informing visitors. The article brings concrete measures suggested by the Tatra National Park Administration.
(page 22-23)

Emissions of greenhouse gases – a big environmental problem

Andrej Škorňa, SEA

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – the basic international legal instrument for global climate protection – was adopted at the UN conference on sustainable development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). 185 countries and international organisations, including the European Union and Slovakia, are the members to the Convention. One of the main objectives of the Convention is to achieve the reduction and stabilisation of greenhouse gases concentration at the level that does not cause interferences with the climate system. The Convention entered into force on 23 November 1994 and the Slovak Republic, as its signatory, accepted all obligations ensuing from it and undertook not to exceed in 2000 the level of greenhouse gases emissions recorded in 1990. At present, we can state that this goal was met successfully. The share of the Slovak Republic in global anthropogenic emission of greenhouse gases is 0.2%. In Slovakia, the annual CO₂ emission pre capita is about 7.7 t/year.
page 24-25

Nature and man are in accord here

Anna Gudzová, SEA

The article describes the family ranch Transylwahnja in Jablonec near Nižná Kaloša (district Rimavská Sobota) that became this year once more the home of the participants of an

ecological camp organised by NGO Priatel'ia Zeme – SPZ (Friends of the Earth). This eight ecological camp was held in the Transylwahnja for the third time already. The main objective of the camp, intended for youth, adults and whole families, was to raise environmental awareness. Alongside the work in the ranch, the participants learned traditional crafts and heard lectures about environmental protection and human rights.
(page 26-27)

Solar ultra-violet radiation affects significantly the environment

Miroslav Chmelík, SHMI and Anna Pribullová, Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)

The authors of the article, besides general information about characteristics and possible harmful effects of solar ultra-violet radiation, bring some data measured in the territory of Slovakia since 1994. Results of monitoring show that also in our geographical area the sun has enough energy to cause unwanted biological effects. Average annual value of total atmospheric ozone in 2004 was 324 Dobson units, i.e. 4.1% below the long-term average measured in Hradec Králové in 1962-1990, which is used as a long-term standard in our region. In connection with this, the year 2004 can be evaluated as an average one. Identical or lower value was recorded 6 times from 1994.
(page 28-29)

Sivý vrch (Grey Hill) – the most beautiful limestone hill of the West Tatras

Katarína Hegedušová, Botanical Institute of SAS

The Grey Hill – the jewel of the West Tatras, offers nature lovers a varied mosaic of flora. Thermophilic species blend here together with alpine ones, Fatra mountain species with Tatra mountain ones. 566 taxa of vascular plants occur here, 65 of them belonging to wholly protected, 3 to partially protected and 28 to endemic species. The unique nature of the Grey Hill deserves attention not only of botanists, florists and nature conservators but also people who love nature and long for knowledge.
(page 30-31)

Historical bases of environmental policy and environmental legislation (VIII)

Jozef Klinda

Man fears Time yet Time fears the Pyramids With this Egyptian proverb the eight part of the narration about historical bases of environmental policy and environmental legislation starts. The author takes us out to the world of pyramids. Pyramids and sphinx occur in documents since the 1st dynasty, therefore the date of their construction in the period of the 3rd – 4th dynasty started to be doubted.

According to Sumerians, pyramidal structures named E.KUR have square ground plan and ideal 52° inclination. Sumerians were depicting them with the symbol of Enki snake with wings as a link with universe and with a sphinx. In contrast to other pyramids in Egypt (totally 118, of it 90 big), the ideal and true three pyramids in Giza are without decoration and texts and they fulfilled other function than the called crypt of Pharaohs.
(page 32-34)

Photo competition

A prompt photographer captured a pair of lizards basking at a rock. He took the photo of green lizards (*Lacerta viridis*) in Fertále, the local part of the Bátorovce cadastral territory. This is the biggest species of Central European lizard with the length up to 40 cm.

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World heritage

Jozef Klinda

Belgium – the four lifts on the Canal du Centre

Bulgaria – a Hungarian horseman

Czech Republic – Pilgrim Church of St. Jan Napomucky

Denmark – mounds, runic stones and church in Jelling

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Editor's Office: SAŽP, Tajovského 28, 975 90 Banská Bystrica,

tel./fax: ++421-48-4230 694, tel. 4713718

e-mail: enviro@sazp.sk.

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