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Jozef Franzen / MoE SR

Approaches of the Ministry of Environment to environmental loads

Jozef Franzen, general director of the Geology and Natural Resources Division of MoE SR writes that Slovakia is a country with several damaged and polluted regions. MoE SR included in its Plan of Main and Legislative Tasks for 2000 the objective to deal with environmental loads, which have not been solved comprehensively up till now. From the legislative point of view the best situation is in guags. The solution of these issues belongs to the competency of several divisions of MoE SR. MoE SR with the Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA) has prepared in September the first draft act on old environmental loads. However, the process of dealing with old environmental loads requires substantial funds. As there are not enough financial means either in the state budget of SR or in MoE's budget, the author lays some hopes to EU structural funds.
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Miroslav Holubec / Research Institute of Water Management in Bratislava

Draft principles of contaminated sites management in SR

The existence of hidden and evident pollution sources is not only the issue of aesthetic perception of the landscape and the cultural level of its inhabitants but it is also one of decisive factors enabling economic utilisation of its components and health of inhabitants. The problem of soil and ground water pollution is the fundamental ecological and economic issue of the state environmental policy in many countries. The author has been mapping the present situation in SR, analyses basic principles of contaminated sites management and the system of priority setting. He states that draft plans of contaminated sites management create a suitable basis for the development of the legislative framework of this issue.
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Renáta Grófová / SEA
Hazardous substances in Europe's water

There is no doubt about the significance and negative impacts of hazardous substances in water environment. The addressing of this issue is a priority task, which is incorporated in all key national and European regulations for water. The article, written on the bases of EEA data and documents, is classifying hazardous substances, their occurrence and impacts on European rivers, seas, ground water and lakes.

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Zita Izakovičová / Landscape Ecology Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)
Sustainable development implementation in SR
Slovakia one year after Johannesburg

Further elaboration of Johannesburg summit's conclusions in the conditions of SR and of directions defining future development was the main objective of the conference "Slovakia one year after Johannesburg". Summit's participants were presenting the Johannesburg message in accordance with three basic areas of sustainable development. During the conference, the position of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in the process of sustainable development implementation was evaluated, participants were discussing the Programme of the Village Renewal, education in the process of sustainable development implementation and the role of science and research in the field of sustainable development.

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Marta Frátričová / Waste Management Department of MoE SR
Inventory of equipment with PCB content in SR

Slowly degradable organic substances, so called persistent organic pollutants (POPs), contribute significantly to pollution and degradation of environment and to old environmental burden origination. These compounds are characterised by long time of survival in environment and the ability of intensive cumulation in the food chain. Most harmful POPs, internationally agreed, include pesticides, industrial chemicals and so called by-products. PCB and PCT, which were industrially produced also in our country for more than 50 years, and the scale of their use was very wide, contributed to the origination of so called old environmental loads.

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Ján Lichý
International cultural summer of Levoča

The motto: "From a drop of water we know the world" was the token of this year's cultural summer of Levoča. The event culminated in the international conference or international dialogue with the title "Water for Global Cooling". Several other interesting events were hold during the Levoča summer, such as the Visegrad workshop of youth devoted to water supply recovery in natural ecosystems of the Carpathian region and other cultural and expert events.

D. Šalgovičová, Z. Sasková, S. Svitková / Research Food Institute in Bratislava
Co-ordinated targeted monitoring of foreign substances in a food chain

Undesirable occurrence of foreign substances in surrounding environment is one of serious factors endangering the health safety of foodstuffs. Relevant monitoring authorities monitor and check the occurrence of these substances in compliance with valid legislation. The objective of the co-ordinated targeted monitoring is to find out the mutual relation between the degree of agricultural land contamination, irrigation and feed water, feeding stuff, plant and animal production in real conditions of agricultural basic production.

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M. Holubec, P. Kutník / Water Management Research Institute in Bratislava
Evaluation of potential pollution sources

GeoEnviron is a database software intended for storage and processing of information on potential pollution sources of soil, surface and ground water. The database consists of a large number of relation tables for the storage of administrative and environmental data. GeoEnviron software was developed in co-operation with the Danish company NIRASS within the Danish-Slovak project "Remediation of Polluted Soil and Groundwater". It includes the inventory as well as preliminary point risk analysis and has been adapted to natural conditions of Slovakia.

Peter Rybár

Czech Paradise – the region that hits Man and takes roots in him

The author of the article writes about beauties, singularities, history and development of the Czech Paradise, the first protected landscape area designated in the Czech Republic, and brings interesting pictures.

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Jozef Kobza / Research Institute of Pedology and Soil Protection in Bratislava
Quality and development of soil in Slovakia

Soil monitoring system in Slovakia has been running as a part of the monitoring system of environment since 1993 (Governmental Decree No. 620 of 7th September 1993). Soil monitoring network was constructed on the basis of ecological principles. This network includes all existing soil types and subtypes, various climatic and emission regions as well as relatively clean regions, lowland and highland in Slovakia. Soil monitoring network consists of 318 monitoring sites on agricultural land and 111 monitoring sites on forest land, as well.

On the basis of obtained results it may be said that significant soil parameters changes, such as available phosphorus and potassium content and soil organic matter decrease as well as deterioration of physical properties mostly in some arable soils (Haplic Luvisols and Chernozems), have been observed during the last period. Concrete development of soils in Slovakia in more detail is described in the new publication on soil monitoring system during last 5 years period (Kobza, J. et al., 2003).

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Ján Lichý

We have the first forest open-air museum

This year's Day of Tree festival in Vydrovská valley was accompanied with the opening of the forest open-air museum and the exhibition about the Dobročský primeval forest. This unique forest complex was designated as the nature reservation in 1913 already. By the opening of the museum and the exhibition, recommendations of experts of the Council of the European Union, who visited Dobročský primeval forest in summer of 1992 in order to assess the actual state of the protected area, have been implemented. During the rich and interesting programme the outstanding Slovak actor Ladislav Chudík acknowledged his love for this region. Participants passed over the 3-km educational trail of the first Slovak forest open-air museum.

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Anna Gudzová / SEA

Dušan Hanák: Man's inner value was always important for me

The film "Pictures from the Old World", which belongs among the most frequently awarded Slovak films in the history, was dominating the interview with the outstanding Slovak film director Dušan Hanák. This art film document and also other films by Dušan Hanák were screened within film reflections of this year's international film festival ENVIROFILM. Dušan Hanák was the international jury chairman in the ENVIROFILM.

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Jozef Košutský / State Veterinary and Food Administration of SR in Bratislava
Jozef Hajduk / Regional Veterinary and Food Administration of SR in Michalovce
Polychlorinated biphenyls in fish of Zemplínska šírava

On 26 June 2002, emergency measures entered into force for the whole area of Zemplínska šírava, prohibiting fishing and fish eating, including sport fishing. The reason of this is the fact that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in fish exceeded limit values. The authors of the article explain the term “polychlorinated biphenyls” and also the process of how PCBs get into the environment. They also bring examples of PCB ecological accidents in the world, answer the questions concerning health risks for people and the massive fish contamination occurrence. At the same time they bring results of game and fish monitoring in SR.

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Radoslava Kanianska / SEA
Jarmila Makovniková / Research Institute of Pedology and Soil Protection in Bratislava
Horné Kysuce – the concrete example of anthropogenic contamination of soil

Soils in the Horné Kysuce region have developed on flysch substrate with low contents of cadmium and lead. The authors of the article focus on the reasons, type and consequences of soil contamination in Horné Kysuce. They bring concrete examples and answer questions concerning the type and source of contamination and what protective measures must be adopted.

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Jozef Klinda / MoE SR
30th anniversary of the Convention on World’s Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection

30 years have passed since the adoption of the Convention on World’s Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection (16 November 1972 at the 17th General Conference of UNESCO). In 1991, the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic became the 115th member to the Convention from among 172 contractual countries (Slovak Republic by succession as the 134th country in 1993). After the last year’s meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest, the World Heritage List contained 730 sites from 152 countries.

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Daniel Vrbjar
Muráň breccia is the most interesting in the area of Piecky

In 1960, the outstanding Czech scientist Vojen Ložek, the expert in the field of quaternary geology and molluscs visited and described scientifically the locality of Muránska planina (plateau). The rock, which is characteristic for this region and occurring mainly (but not only) in the locality of Piecky in Suchadol, he named Muránska breccia. In this locality it is the most interesting as it creates remarkable rocky walls.

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