

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Dear Reader,

In front of you is the second issue of our journal for 2015. It includes selected papers presented in English in the frame of the Fourth National Conference with International Participation and Youth Scientific Session "Ecological Engineering and Environment Protection" (EEEEP'2015).

The Conference EEEP'2015 has been organized by the National Association "Ecological Engineering and Environment Protection", the Institute of Microbiology "Stefan Angelov" – BAS, the University "Asen Zlatarov" – Bourgas, the Institute for Space Research and Technologies – BAS, the Faculty of Biology - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the EVRIKA Foundation.

The conference was held from 03 to 06 June 2015 in the town of Bourgas, in the halls of the College of Tourism -University "Prof. Zlatarov ". A total of 71 scientific papers and posters were presented, of which 15 (21%) were with foreign participation.

The presented plenary reports were as follows: "The new ecology – next step" (Prof. Nesho Chipev, Shumen University "Konstantin Prerslavski"), "Ecological aspects and incidence of the mostly reported food-borne pathogens" (Prof. Hristo Najdenski, Corresponding member of BAS, The "Stephan Angeloff" Institute of Microbiology, BAS) and "How scientific achievements walk fast to the practice of environmental technologies?" (Prof. Yana Topalova, Sofia University, Faculty of Biology, Department of General and Applied Hydrobiology).

Youth participation in presenting reports and posters - 38 (53.5%), where a young scientist was the first author, including 20 reports (55.6%) and 18 posters (51.4%) proved to be remarkable.

The conference was attended by 43 young scientists (aged under 35 years), representatives of different institutions: Sofia University, "Prof. A. Zlatarov " University - Bourgas, New Bulgarian University, Shumen University, Technical University - Sofia, Technical University - Varna, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Institute of Microbiology, Institute for Space Research and Technology, Institute of Forestry, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Institute of Chemical Engineering, Institute of Organic Chemistry, Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology) IPAZR "N. Pushkarov." Representatives from abroad were also present: Algeria, France, Russia, Ukraine, Cyprus, Italy.

The conference was held in the following thematic areas: man and biosphere; ecosystems and biodiversity; environmental biotechnology; space technology and environment; environmental monitoring and impact assessment; ecologization of agriculture; forest biology; renewable energy and biofuels; biomass; ecosystem modeling; bioinformatics; bioautomatics; microbial fuel cells. Two poster sessions were also organized.

The active participation of young scientists in discussing the reports and posters presented should be noted.

At the end of the conference a general discussion was organized at which the leaders of the scientific sessions presented the most important issues and conclusions reported within their respective sections. Then the overall course of the conference and prospects for organizing its next edition in two years were analyzed.

The last day of the conference program was used for an excursion in the Natural Park "Strandja" and the village of "Brashlian". In a pleasant atmosphere the participants got acquainted with the new trends in ecosystem services of natural parks.

Abstracts (in Bulgarian and English) of the materials presented are published in the Proceedings uploaded on the website of the journal. The full texts of reports and posters will also be published as articles in separate books of our journal in English or Bulgarian language after further reviewing and processing them according to the journal regulations.

Evaluation of the reports and posters of young scientists, PhD students and students was carried out by a committee established after the decision of the management of the National Association "Ecological Engineering and Environment Protection" and the Organizing Committee of the conference. Three awards of 100 leva and two encouraging of 50 leva were granted to the following participants:

- Irina Schneider – research assistant in the Faculty of Biology for her report on "Comparative assessment of nitrification and denitrification in wastewater purification at WWTP "Sadinata" and WWTP "Kubratovo";

- Daniela Avetisyan - a PhD student at Space Research and Technology Institute –BAS for the report entitled "Status and dynamics of forest vegetation in the region of Haskovo - study based on vegetation indices, weather data and data on solar activity";

- Denitsa Zgureva - PhD student from the Technical University – Sofia for a report entitled "Improving the technical and economic indicators of the methods for synthesis of zeolites from flying ash";

- Ralitsa Koleva, PhD student at the University "Prof.A.Zlatarov" - Burgas for a poster entitled "Exploring the possibilities for application of microbial fuel cells to neutralize the free radical DPPH";

- Blagovesta Midyurova, research assistant in the University "Prof. A.Zlatarov" - Burgas for her report on "Power generation in microbial fuel cells with modified cathodes".

The Commission noted as an achievement and awarded for the development and presentation the following posters:

-Marina Dimitrova, a student at the University of Shoumen "Bishop Konstantin of Preslavski" -poster entitled "Isolation, identification and study of the properties of microorganisms from Antarctic soil and lichens";

- Lyudmila Dimitrova, PhD student at the Institute of Microbiology "Stefan Angelov", BAS -poster entitled "Antibacterial activity of extracts of *Geum urbanum L.*".

The organizers would like to thank the main sponsors of the conference ("Evrika" Foundation, New Bulgarian University, Department of "Natural Sciences", Merck Bulgaria EAD and the heirs of prof. Nikolay Nikolov Nenov) for showing availability and their material support for the event. We sincerely hope that the established good relationships between the organizers and participants of the conference will continue in the future in organizing new scientific forums and supporting young scientists in their public appearances.

Finally we would like to thanks the National Science Fund at the Ministry of Education and Science for the financial support of our Journal for this year.

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Sofia

Ivan Simeonov
Editor