

## ***EDITORIAL COMMENT***

**Dear Readers,**

You have the second edition of our Journal for 2017 which includes articles in English, giving you the opportunity to get acquainted with the main papers presented in the separate thematic areas during the 5th International Conference on Ecological Engineering and Environmental Protection (EEEEP'2017). The Conference was held in June 5-7, 2017 in the House of Science and Technique of the Territorial Organization of the Scientific and Technical Unions - Plovdiv.

The main organizers of this remarkable Conference were the National Society for Ecological Engineering and Environmental Protection (NSEEEP), the Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) and the Territorial Organization of the Scientific and Technical Unions with the House of Science and Technology - Plovdiv. The preparation and holding of the Conference was also with the kind assistance of the Institute for Space Research and Technology - BAS, Faculty of Biology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", the Balkan Environmental Federation, the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Scientific Research Fund at the Ministry of Education and Science, the Evrika Foundation and PROTE-22 EOOD.

Abstracts and Program Book in both Bulgarian and English languages were distributed to all participants (during their registration) as well as Proceedings Book on CD with the electronic version of the reports submitted to the Conference. The abstracts and reports were evaluated by the International Program Committee, chaired by Academician Alexander Alexandrov (BAS).

The Conference was held in 3 official languages (English, Bulgarian and Russian) in 4 thematic sections: Environmental Biotechnology, Space Technology and the Environment along with Man and the Biosphere, Greening of Agriculture along with Forest Biology, Renewable Energy Sources and Biofuels.

A total of 77 scientific papers and posters were presented at the Conference, of which 5 plenary and 33 regular oral reports. Some of the latter were given by invited lecturers and had plenary status. 39 posters from Bulgarian and foreign scientists were presented in one poster session. A good impression was made by young scientists, PhD students, graduates, assistant professors and senior assistants, who presented 25 scientific reports (32%) in which youth participation was undoubtedly evidenced as the first and second author. In-depth knowledge, interest and competence were demonstrated by young scientists and during the discussions on the reports and posters, some of which continued in the coffee breaks. The evaluation of the reports and posters presented by young researchers, PhD students and students was carried out by a Committee set up by decision of the leadership of the NSEEEP and the Organizing Committee of the Conference. Two targeted and two encouraging cash prizes, as well as diplomas of the distinguished researchers were awarded.

A total of 167 scientists, representatives of various scientific institutions - research institutes, universities, non-governmental organizations with scientific activities from Bulgaria and abroad took part in the Conference. Traditionally, researchers from the Institute of Biomedical Problems at the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow), the Institute of Microbiology and Virology "Zabolotni" at the National Academy of Sciences in Ukraine, Biological Faculty at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski", University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy - Sofia, University of Food Technologies - Plovdiv, Agrarian University of Plovdiv, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" and a number of institutes at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (the Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology, Institute for Space Research and Technology, Institute for Forestry, Institute for Bio-diversity and Ecosystem Research, Institute of Polymers, Institute of Chemical Engineering, Institute for Optical Materials and Technologies, Institute for Information and Communication Technologies,

Institute for Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum), Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection "Nikola Pushkarov "and others. The participation of scientists from abroad - a total of 11 from Germany, Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan was also noticeable.

The financial support provided by the Evrika Foundation has played a positive role in integrating young scientists into the European scientific space, and their participation in the current International Conference is a separate event and a real opportunity to communicate with colleagues from abroad, discussion of scientific achievements and ideas, perspectives for scientific development.

On the last day and within the social program of the Conference an excursion to the Bachkovo Monastery was organized.

The organizers express their gratitude to the Evrika Foundation for the responsiveness and financial support of the participation of young scientists and PhD students in this exciting event. We sincerely hope that the good relations between our two institutions will continue in the future in profit of young scientists in their public appearances.

We would also like to thank the Science Fund at the Ministry of Education and Science in Bulgaria for their financial support of organizing and conducting the 5th International Conference on Ecological Engineering and Environmental Protection (EEEP'2017) and the publication of our journal in 2017.

12.09.2017

Sofia

Prof. Hristo Najdenski DVM, Dsc

Corresponding Member of BAS, Editor-in-Chief



Group photo of some of the participants in the 5th International Conference on Ecological Engineering and Environment Protection (EEEP'2017)