

EDITORS NOTE

This issue of "Future" focuses on the theme of environmental protection. This topic is devoted to five articles. They relate mainly to Polish affairs.

The first, entitled "*Biological diversity of Poland - the state, threats, legal and organizational aspects of protection*" was written by Ewa Symonides. The author broadly describes the condition of the Polish nature, emphasizing its outstanding scenic and relatively better biological diversity in comparison to other European countries. In particular, natural landscapes or similar to them are worth appreciating. They are found especially in the eastern and northern part of the Poland. Against this background, have been characterized main anthropogenic threats to conservation of biodiversity and the legal and organizational capabilities to counter them. Particular attention was paid to the organizational problems arising from the lack of transparency introduced procedures.

The second article, entitled "*Changes in the soil environment and their consequences*", written by Stanislaw Gruszczyński, shows numerous threats leading to degradation of soils. The author shows both natural and anthropogenic sources of these phenomena. He highlights the role of business practices, particularly in agriculture, leading to the loss of organic matter in the soil, which may result in a decrease in productivity of the land.

Marek Gromiec, in an article entitled "*Problems of water supply in Poland - resources, threats, solutions*" addresses issues related to the availability of one of the most important factors necessary for human life. The author emphasizes adverse domestic supply of water. Furthermore he emphasizes that the available resources are often of poor quality, which further limits the possibilities of its use. At the same time the paper presents a number of solutions that could significantly contribute to the improvement of water quality in Poland. Many of them require only a change of approach, ie. to notice the problem.

The article entitled "*Evaluation of the impact of mining on the environment – trends*" was written by three authors: Richard Uberman, Elżbieta Pietrzyk-Sokulska and Joanna Kulczycka. It indicates the problem of damage resulting from mining activities. Emphasis was placed on the possibility of revitalization the areas that have been degraded. Numerous examples presented show how through revitalization one can create new ecosystems, unlike the original, but with numerous environmental advantages.

The last article in this topic, entitled "*Protection of the natural processes of environmental services in the perspective of sustainable development econo-*

mics" was written by Artur Michałowski. This text analyzes the natural environment protection issues from the point of view of economic theory. The author draws attention to the differences between neoclassical economics and the economics of sustainable development. Against this background, the idea of environmental services was presented, i.e. the benefits of ecosystem functioning, but having no market valuation. Their inclusion in the economic calculation would solve most environmental problems.

In the second part of this issue we present two texts. The first one was written by Marek Chlebuś. This essay entitled "*The Future. User's Guide*" contains theoretical considerations about the time and the ability to predict the future. The author identifies a number of reasons why forecasting of future events may not be possible.

The last text, written by Kamil Zajączkowski is a review of a book made by Katarzyna Nawrot and entitled "Developing countries in today's global economy. Contribution to the economy of development".

At the end we present a subjective review of the most interesting, international trends in futures studies. In addition, we present a chronicle of the latest activities of the Committee and its publishing achievements.

We warmly welcome people interested in posting articles in the "Future". Each text concerning the future research will be considered by us. Requirements for authors and reviewing procedure are described on the journal's website: <http://www.prognozy.pan.pl/index.php/wydawnictwa/38-newsletter-committee>. Editors also publish reviews and information on conferences. In the latter case, it is worth remembering that the magazine is a biannual, which means that sending a message should be made well in advance.

Enjoy reading.

Editorial Board