

Nature Environment and Pollution Technology

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EDITORS

Prof. K. P. Sharma

Ecology Lab, Deptt. of Botany
University of Rajasthan
Jaipur-302 004, India
Rajasthan, India

Dr. P. K. Goel

Assoc. Prof. & Head, Deptt. of Pollution Studies
Yashwantrao Chavan College of Science
Vidyanagar, Karad-415 124
Maharashtra, India

Managing Editor at Jaipur: Dr. Subhashini Sharma, Department of Zoology, Rajasthan University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Business Manager: Mrs. Tara P. Goel, Technoscience Publications, 2 Shila Apartment, Shila Nagar, Karad-415 110, Maharashtra, India (**E-mail: contact@neptjournal.com**)

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Website: <http://www.atiner.gr/water.htm>

Contact person: Gregory Papanikos

Science for the Environment 2015

1-2 October 2015, Aarhus, Denmark

Website: <http://dce-conference.au.dk/>

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Energy and Sustainability 2015 - 6th International Conference on Energy and Sustainability

2-4 September 2015, Medellin, Colombia

Website: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/energy2015>

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22-24 July 2015, Paris, France

Website: <http://ciiem.info>

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Water and Society 2015 - 3rd International Conference on Water and Society

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The 3rd EnvironmentAsia International Conference

17th to 19th June 2015,

Bangkok, Thailand

Website: <http://www.tshe.org/environmentasia-2015/>

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Sardinia 2015 - 15th International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium Forte Village

5-9 October 2015,

S. Margherita di Pula, Cagliari, Italy

Website: <http://www.sardiniasymposium.it>

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International Conference on Biotechnology for Better Tomorrow (BTBT-2015)

29-31 October, 2015

Florida Ag. Research, Thonotosassa, Florida, USA

Contact Person: amdeshmukh1@rediffmail.com

International Conference on Advances in Science, Engineering, Technology and Natural Resources (ICASETNR-15)

27-28 August 2015

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Website: <http://www.iicbe.org/2015/08/28/57>

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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

EU pledges to cut its emission by 40% by 2030; submits its climate action plan

A week after Switzerland took lead by becoming the first country to submit its post-2020 climate action plan, the European Union on Friday submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) pledging that this group of 28 countries would work to reduce domestic emission of greenhouse gases by 40% from their 1990 level by the year 2030. The EU also committed for a regular review and strengthening of its mitigation commitments consistent with a long-term goal to curb emissions.

This commitment is in tune with what these countries had jointly set out in the conclusions by the European Council in October last year. Switzerland, which is not part of the EU, in its INDC on February 27 had committed that the country would reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% relative to 1990 levels by 2030. The EU in its submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) said, "The target represents a significant progression beyond its current undertaking of a 20% emission reduction commitment by 2020 compared to 1990 (which includes the use of offsets). "It is in line with the EU objective, in the context of necessary reductions according to the IPCC by developed countries as a group, to reduce its emissions by 80-95% by 2050 compared to 1990. Furthermore, it is consistent with the need for at least halving global emissions by 2050 compared to 1990".

It claimed that the EU and its Member States (28 countries) have already reduced their emissions by around 19% on 1990 levels while GDP has grown by more than 44% over the same period. "As a result, average per capita emissions across the EU and its Member States have fallen from 12 tonnes CO₂-eq. in 1990 to 9 tonnes CO₂-eq. in 2012 and are projected to fall to around 6 tonnes CO₂-eq. in 2030. The emissions in the EU and its Member States peaked in 1979", said the EU's INDC document.

Under the INDCs, all countries are expected to submit their 'nationally determined contribution' in terms of their mitigation (emission cut) and adaptation goals in advance ahead of Paris climate talks, scheduled for December, where a new climate deal is expected to be signed. India is expected to submit its INDC in June. The new climate agreement will come into effect in 2020 and will pave the way to keep a global temperature rise this century under 2 degrees C. Additional details of the EU's INDC is available with the UNFCCC and it can be accessed by governments, NGOs, think-tanks or individuals through its website.

Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom are 28 member countries in the EU.

Submitting its joint INDC, the EU through its document appealed to all other Parties (UNFCCC member countries), in particular major economies, to communicate their INDCs by the end of March 2015 in a manner that facilitates their clarity, transparency and understanding. It said, "The EU and its Member States look forward to discussing with other Parties the fairness and ambition of INDCs in the context of the below 2°C objective, their aggregate contribution to that objective and on ways to collectively increase ambition further".

TNN, March 7, 2015

BOOK REVIEW

S. M. Khopkar 2015. *Environmental Pollution Monitoring and Control*. Second Edition, pp. 541, New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers, New Delhi, ISBN: 978-81-224-3804-8, Price Rs. 399.

The subject of environmental pollution is an important part of environmental science in view of its severe impact on man, and emerging of diverse global problems like greenhouse effect and climate change, ozone depletion, and acid rain, etc. Great efforts are being taken to combat the pollution problems on local as well as global levels, and stringent pollution control Acts have been promulgated by almost all countries. The subject of environmental science has now become a part of the curricula of almost all universities including nontechnical, technical and agricultural universities.

The book has been written to understand the fundamentals of monitoring, analysis and control of various kinds of pollution with reasonable depth. The book has been divided into 26 main chapters, i.e., Introduction, Environmental Analysis, Modern Methods of Analysis, Statistical Methods in Environment, Environmental Toxicology, Environmental Chemistry of Common Toxic Metals, Air Pollution Analysis, Air Pollution Meteorology, Water Pollution, Water Treatment, Waste Water, Recycling and Reuse of Waste Water, Sewage, Land Pollution and Pesticides, Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, Biomedical Waste, Biomonitoring of an Environment, Environment and Noise, Odour and Environment, Thermal Pollution, Radioactive Waste and Environment, Energy and Environment, Population and Environment, Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Modelling.

The inclusion of chapters like hazardous waste, biomedical waste, biomonitoring, energy and environment and environmental impact assessment has increased the usefulness of the book to a great extent. The book also includes some of the very latest technologies of chemical analysis like inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES), which is now considered as most efficient technology for heavy metal analysis.

However, the repetition of some topics like that of a few instrumental methods described under 'modern methods of analysis' in the chapter of wastewater could have been avoided. Some low cost wastewater treatment methods like the use of aquatic plants and constructed wetlands, and use of wastewater for irrigation should have been included in the book to make it more useful as these chapters are included in many syllabi of environmental science. Similarly, the methodology of EIA should have been expanded for better understanding.

The book has been written in a lucid language, easily understandable by students. One of the positive points for the book is inclusion of 'Conclusion' and 'Additional Reading' at the end of each chapter. The references given in the additional reading are appropriate and latest. The book shall be highly useful to the students and teachers of the subject and must be the part of libraries of all the colleges and universities or where the subject of environment is taught. The low price of the book shall also encourage students and teachers to make it a part of their personal collection.

Dr. P. K. Goel
HOD
Department of Pollution Studies
Yashwantrao Chavan College of Science
Karad, Maharashtra