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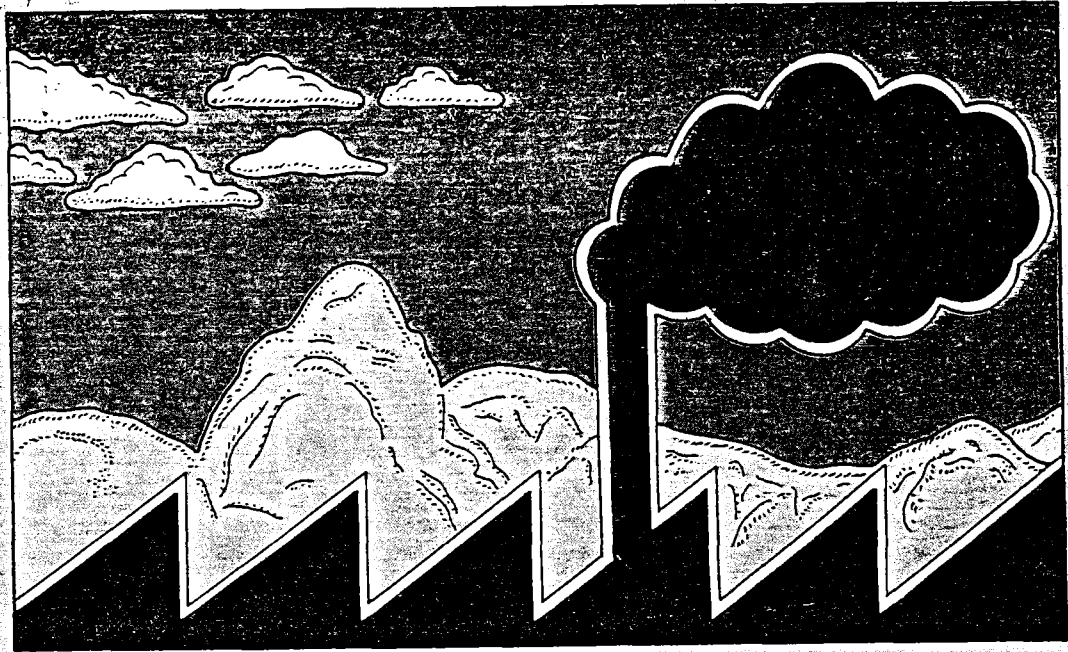
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**ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES
TOWARDS THE YEAR
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Editors

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Asian Institute of Technology
30th Year Celebration



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CONTENTS

Foreword

Preface

The Global Environment

NEELOO BHATTI, DAVID G. STREETS and TOUFIQ A. SIDDIQI: Responding to the Threat of Global Warming: Options for the Pacific and Asia. 1

Hazardous Waste and the Contamination of Water, Soil and Air.

HARVEY DRUCKER: Technology Transfer in Hazardous Waste Management. 25

TOMONORI MATSUO: Present and Future Trends of Hazardous Waste Management in Japan. 37

ADISAK THONGKAIMOOK and THONGCHAI PANSWAD: Risk Assessment for Hazardous Waste Management in Thailand. 51

FRANK D. SCHAUMBURG: Social and Political Implication of Hazardous Waste Management in the USA. 65

GUENTER THARUN: Future Trends in Environmental Education and Training. 75

LOURDES L. MAKIRAMDAM-ICBAN: Hazardous Waste and Water Quality Management in the Philippines. 99

WANPEN WIROJANAGUD and PINTHITA MUNGKARNDDEE: Rainwater Contamination. 109

ELMA B. TORRES: Environmental Levels of Mercury in Small-Scale Gold Processing Areas in Davao Del Norte. 125

Future Trends in Environmental Engineering and Science Education

DALE A. CARLSON and ROLF T. SKRINDE: The Environmental Educational Challenge: An Opportunity for Noble Approaches to World Problems. 141

B. N. LOHANI: Trends in Post Graduate Education in Environmental Technology. 151

G. J. ALAERTS: Sanitary Engineering Challenged by Environmental and Public Health Management.	
P. N. RAMACHANDRAN: An Innovative Experience in Environmental Engineering Education in India.	161
PAMEKAS: Environmental Education and Training Need for Implementing PP.29/1986 in Indonesia: Some Practical Considerations and Lessons Learned.	177
JUANITA A. MANALO: Trends in Environmental Education - Philippine Scenario.	183
THIERRY CHAMBOLLE: Science and Technology Needs in Environmental Engineering.	201

Errata

The paper on "Future Trends in Environmental Education and Training" by Mr. Guenter Tharun appearing in page 75 to 98 should belong to the theme on "Future Trends in Environmental Engineering and Science Education".

EDITORIAL

Rapid modernization all over the world, under the pretext of providing luxury and comfort, is posing a serious threat to our natural resources and environment. The human urge to attain the highest living standards often leads to drastic changes in the environment, thus finally threatening the very existence of life on earth. Not long ago, pollution prevention and control were regarded as an extravaganza which only affluent countries can afford. Now, environmental problems are not just confined to a particular local or regional area; they are very much of global concern.

Despite the last two decades of progress in developing and applying technologies for controlling pollutants from major sources, the present generation is plagued with potentially dangerous environmental problems. There is evidence that people are regularly exposed to a variety of environmental contaminants including air pollutants, water pollutants, and contaminated soil and food. Serious changes have also been observed in the quality of certain ecological resources.

Recently, on the global scale, the depletion of stratospheric ozone by chloro-fluoro-carbon (CFC) has caused serious concern all over the world. Also, increased concentrations of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are responsible for global warming.

These are only a few of the many environmental hazards which the current generation is facing. On these environmental problems, billions of dollars are being spent all over the world in the quest for so-called "self-sustained development". The amount of money at stake is so high that intensive research and development to achieve pollution prevention and control is warranted. The needs of the future have to be perceived right now so as to prepare the ground for future encounters. Our educational programs should be oriented towards those future concerns.

Realizing these challenges, the Environmental Engineering Division of the Asian Institute of Technology, on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, is conducting a Symposium on Environmental Perspectives Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. This symposium addresses following three themes:

- i) the global environment,
- ii) hazardous waste and the contamination of water, soil and air, and
- iii) future trends in environmental engineering and science education.

This symposium is a part of our crusade for the cause of a better environment today, tomorrow, the year 2000 and beyond as well.