

ADAPTING LANDSCAPES AND RESPONSE TO GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL CHANGE

(EDITORIAL)

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When Paul Opdam provoked fresh discussion in the context of neglected relevancy of the impact of climate change on the landscape level (IALE website, Opdam et al. 2009) it was the key inspirational point for us to offer the Czech territory for a meeting on this topic in 2010. Confluent thinking about the topic resulted in the Middle-European conference „Landscape structures, functions and management: response to global ecological change“, organised in Brno with post-conference excursions (workshops) in Prague, September 3-7, 2010. It was the second landscape-ecological conference associated with the IALE in the country (after Prague 1998) since the political transformation towards democracy in the Czech Republic, i.e., velvet revolution in 1989 (Kovář 1999, 2009). The conference was dedicated to the 10-anniversary of the CZ-IALE. Territory of the Czech Republic as one of the diverse European regions crossing the hydrological „roof of Europe“ has been exposed to many extreme climatically and hydrologically significant episodes in its modern history. E.g., impacts of floods in 1997, 2002, 2006 and this year (several times) were so disruptive that their economical consequences will reach a long-term dimension. Many changes in the non-conceptual landscape management across the countries seem to be determining the trend of continentalization of European climate and ecosystems with all the accompanying extreme phenomena. We believe that our meeting brought the opportunity to discuss new connections and interrelationships within our knowledge and it can express some consistent opinion in our decision sphere. In spite of extensive pattern of subjects within the background of the nine symposia (http://www.pdfdownload.org/pdf2html/pdf2html.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.iale.cz%2Fdownloads%2FICLE%202010_finalprogramme.pdf&images=yes) the common view calls for improved mechanisms and tools supporting more consistent scientific and applied studies as our serious response to challenges given by quietly accelerating global changes in many variables. All this was underlined by an eloquent message from Zev Naveh starting (written by organizers) the programme of the conference (http://www.pdfdownload.org/pdf2html/pdf2html.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.iale.cz%2Fdownloads%2FICLE2010_book%20of%20abstracts.pdf&images=yes). The meeting was visited nearly by 200 people from 30 countries of 5 continents. We promised the standard review procedure in our journal for manuscripts originated in the conference presentations and offered their publication in the Journal of Landscape Ecology. No special collection of contributions was prepared, therefore we started with a normal issue of the journal containing mixture of non-conferencial papers altered with the elaborated presentations within the conference (only inconspicuous signs indicate the latter case). Yes, it is not easy to decide in all cases if some texts are suitable to be published here – not due to their quality but for their character without „hard“ original data sets (e.g., wide analytical considerations about methodological platform on solving problems, moreover,

controversial in some parts). However, such and similar cases were supported to be exposed to the peer review process and finally published.

This issue is the first one with partial inclusion of the conference contribution (in no special order). We hope that distinguished features of the main theme of the impact of global changes will be apparent at the end of the following JLE issues.

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