

BOOK REVIEW

International Handbook of Pollution Control

Edited by Edward J. Kormondy

(Greenwood Press, New York—Westport, Connecticut—London 1989. 466 pages)

The aim of the book, as the editor expressed it in the preface, has been to give a broad survey of the regulation of air, water and soil pollution and of toxic substances in industrialized and developing countries of both socialist and capitalist bent.

For this purpose several experts of environmental protection from countries of broad geographic coverage were invited to participate in the work by giving a survey of the state of pollution control in their countries. The authors were asked to address the following points in their survey: historical antecedents and the impetus for pollution control; major pollution problems from a regional, national and transboundary perspective; national and other policies; and implementation, including the role of governmental and nongovernmental agencies or groups, the prioritization of issues, fines and incentives, and prohibitions and liability.

The book contains reports from 24 countries that were composed keeping in view the above mentioned structure. The countries were divided into 5 regional groups: the Americas, Europe, Oceania, Africa and Asia. The contributing countries were the following: Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, United States, Venezuela, Czechoslovakia, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Japan, Korea, People's Republic of China, Singapore and Taiwan.

Almost each chapter is supplemented by references and bibliography. In the Appendix chapters with the following titles can be found: Journals and Periodicals Dealing with Pollution and Pollution Control; Organizations Concerned with Pollution and Pollution Control; Bibliographic and Abstracting Services on Pollution and Pollution Control. Separate chapters are devoted to the compilation of source books on pollution and pollution control as well as to the short biographies of the contributors. A broadly cast introductory chapter in which some of the most memorable disasters caused by air or water pollution are recalled such as the Seveso explosion (Italy), the Bhopal Gas Leak (India), the Minamata Incident (Japan) and the radiation incidents in Chernobyl (USSR) and Goiania (Brasilia), and an integrative one on international regulation complete the book.

27 tables with very interesting figures or other kind of information from the field of environmental protection increase the value of the surveys.

An alphabetic Index makes the handling of the book easier.

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