

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “THE HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENT”

- CONFERENCE REPORT -

Mirjana Čurlin*

* University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb, Croatia

corresponding author: Mirjana Čurlin, e-mail: mcurlin@pbf.hr



FACTS

Association for Promotion of Holistic Approach to Environment in cooperation with Balkan Environmental Association, University of Zagreb Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering, University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica and Sisak-Moslavina County have organized the second International Conference „The Holistic Approach to Environment”. Due to the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and continuous earth tremors in Sisak area, conference was taking place in online surrounding via Microsoft Teams interactive platform on May 28th, 2021.

Conference was patronized by Ministries of Republic of Croatia: Ministry of Science and Education, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Agriculture.

Through online presentations and online poster section 77 research papers (scientific, professional and review papers) have been

presented by authors from 10 different countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, France, India, Poland, Serbia and Slovenia). Before being presented at the conference, all the papers went through review procedure which was done by 139 reviewers from 13 countries. All the research papers have been collected in a “Proceedings book” that is in electronical format (pdf) and is shared with participants (ISSN 2623-677X).

The conference raised big interest and has welcomed more than 100 participants from various countries that joined using the Microsoft Teams platform.

Apart from that, conference was recognized as conference with international and economic significance, so a lot of companies from the industry supported the conference through sponsorships and donations.

We would like to thank all the companies that supported the 2nd edition of the conference

“The Holistic approach to Environment”: INA d.d., Agroproteinka d.d., Jasika d.o.o., AMK Sisak, AnAs d.o.o., KEFO d.o.o., KONČAR – Electrical Industry Inc., OIKON Ltd. - Institute of Applied Ecology, SOL Croatia d.o.o. The conference was co-financed by “Hrvatske vode”.

COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference was opened Prof. Anita Štrkalj, Ph.D., president of the Organizing Committee of the conference, who, as part of the opening ceremony, reminded the participants of the previous 1st conference and compared both conferences (2018 and 2021). She also presented the goals of the conference and wished warm welcome and hope that conference will be held successfully even though it is happening in the online environment.

Representatives of the co-organizers, Mrs. Ana Mirenić, B.Sc., Assoc. prof. Hrvoje Meaški, Ph.D. and Assoc. prof. Siniša Ozimec, Ph.D. also addressed the participants with introductory and welcome words.

Through invited lecture, Damir Rumenjak, Ph.D. presented his research where he emphasized the importance of applying the modeling methodology in maintaining the conditions for permits in environmental protection. Second invited lecture was held by Prof. Aleksandar Mešić, Ph.D. from the field of phytopharmacy. The invited lectures were followed by 30 research presentations (15-minute presentations) by numerous participants from Croatia and abroad. As part of the conference, two commercial presentations were held.

The poster section, in which numerous participants presented their research, was accessed through the conference website (using previously provided web link) and held in parallel with lectures.

In addition to the interactive discussion, all participants had the opportunity to ask

questions through specifically dedicated e-mail address of the conference. Numerous questions received via e-mail and constructive discussions held after individual presentations are an indicator of a great interest in integral approach to the environment. The conference was closed by Prof. Anita Štrkalj, Ph.D. where she thanked everyone for their contribution to the successful conference and announced the next meeting at the 3rd conference in 2023, with the hope that it will be held in contact form in the renewed and peaceful Sisak.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, holistic approach to the environment is a synergy of technical and natural sciences that provide the technical comforts of modern civilization, but also humanities and social sciences, which help to understand ourselves and the social relations in which we live. Given this, only an interdisciplinary and integrated view of the environment can offer sustainable models of development. Considering these aspects at the 2nd conference, through the presentation of current scientific, technological, theoretical, and practical knowledge and achievements in the field of environmental protection, sustainable development, environmental engineering and ethics, existing and new knowledge about the environment was expanded. Although we were deprived of standard mutual contacts and socializing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was success. As an indicator of the success and achieved goals of the conference, we should not only take in the account the number of participants, but also numerous questions, constructive discussions and comments, feedbacks and suggestions that have set the bar high for the next conference edition.

In the end, the objective of the conference was met since the great exchange of knowledge, experiences, and great cooperation between scientists from different fields of science were achieved.

<https://konferencija.hrcpo.com>