

## Foreword

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Another Scientific Journal in the field of the Environmental Sciences and Technology? Why? Is it necessary? Is there room for another Journal in this field? Is it going to offer something new? Instead of simply answering these questions, I will try to do that indirectly through the presentation of the Global Network of Environmental Science and Technology, its goals and expectations. GLOBAL NEST, founded by a group of scientists from all over the world in September 1997, is a global scientific movement. Our common concern about environmental issues and our view on the way that Governments, International Organizations and information managers deal with them was the driving force behind the creation of this ambitious international network. The network was formed with the prospect that information and communication technology will eventually be able to articulate ideas and policies at both global and local level, circumventing today's information channels.

It is our common belief that environmental problems could find a solution through policies based on scientific data. This data might be compiled through the international scientific dialogue. It is this conclusion that gives us the hope that such a network can play an important role.

In our declaration, we stated the aims and the means we intend to use in order to achieve these objectives. Our approach does not distinguish between accusers and defendants. It is a fact that our environment has suffered by technology abuse at all stages of production, transport, telecommunications and urban development.

We believe in a new type of civilization and in a new culture, which in all its expressions, will respect and understand nature, co-operating harmoniously with it. This is our long-term goal, and as long as it takes it, we are going to serve this worthy goal. We have to recall, though, all the complex and difficult evils we are facing; the spreading out of farming at the expense of natural ecosystems, the abuse of agrochemical substances, the almost exclusive use of fossil fuel and the increase of transport, the main environmental polluters. Several products are based on synthetic chemistry and have created a new setting for the living world, unknown till today. The delicate biochemical balance of the earth is frequently disturbed, destroying systems that are the product of long geological processes.

We live in the age of a barbaric use of technology innovations. We need time to get hold of friendly environmental solutions. Future policies should rely on the vision of an economy, which respects the environment. The transforms we hunt for are of a historical importance. They cannot be conceded without the international co-operation of scientists, without the profound knowledge of the changes we do consider necessary, or of the first priority.

It is a fact, however, that on our planet, development and technology have created the environmental problems, as well as the geopolitical framework, at a time when we witness seriously unbalanced development in different parts of the earth. Unfortunately, we try to solve them using the same technology and development we have known all those years in a way that more damage to the environment is to be expected. We should realize

how important it is to mobilize globally and co-ordinate our forces, because the reversal of these dynamics is, indeed, a very difficult task.

We need perhaps changes that we are not yet able to conceive.

We aspire to join forces with all those scientists who are involved in environmental issues, trying to realize an environment friendly vision for the future. Our daily practice should conform to this line of thought, this being our commitment.

I believe that the publication of a highly competent Scientific Journal will invigorate our efforts towards the creation of a better environment. It will strengthen the links and communication between members of G.NEST and others, and along with the scientific presentation, it will give many opportunities for position statements in the most significant environmental issues

Today G.NEST members are nearing the figure of five hundred from 45 countries and I hope that this figure is going to increase into thousands from more countries.

The "GLOBAL NEST: the International Journal" is going to contribute to the expansion of the network, set the standard of the scientific base of our organization and enhance the credibility of our possible intervention in the environmental issues.



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