



Consejo
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de
Ciencia
y
Tecnología
Mexico City
27-29 June

Science and Man in the Americas

Mexico City 20 June to 4 July 1973



American
Association
for the
Advancement
of
Science
Washington, D.C.

Ecology and Deterioration of the Environment

It is a global truism that in problems concerning our environment, unlike most international concerns, we shall rise or fall together. The nations of our hemisphere are in very different stages of development, but the basic ingredients of the challenge mankind faces are everywhere the same—how to ensure prosperity; how to achieve social justice; how to safeguard the air, water, and earth of our countries and therewith the future of our citizens.

In the past, all of us have been massively indifferent to our environs. In the United States we must admit our mistakes and we know there is a price to pay. Our hope is not to escape payment of past debts or to foist them off on those who are less prosperous, but to work with all nations to help reduce the damage before it overwhelms us, and in so doing to ensure a higher prosperity for all. The environmental mistakes we have made in industrializing our nation need not be repeated in other countries.—WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS, Mexico City, 14 January 1973

The 23 February issue of *Science* announced the inter-American scientific meeting organized by the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología of Mexico and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 20 June to 4 July 1973 in Mexico City. One of the ten central themes of the meeting will be developed in a 3-day (27-29 June) meeting, "Ecology and deterioration of the environment," arranged by Eduardo Escheverría (subsecretaria, Mejoramiento del Ambiente, Mexico) and William D. Ruckelshaus (administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

The symposium will include scholars from both the American and European continents in order to add perspective and scope to the presentations. Sessions will be chaired by Eduardo Escheverría and Stanley Greenfield (assistant administrator, Research and Monitoring of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). The format of the meetings is designed to involve the general public in discussions and particularly to offer a forum for young people to express their thoughts.

A wide variety of interrelated topics of common interest to the countries of the Americas will be explored with em-

phasis on the impact of environmental pollution on the future of the peoples of the American continent. A major objective of this symposium will be to contribute to the understanding of mutual problems and opportunities in this hemisphere and to evaluate alternative solutions available through science and technology.

The symposium will begin Wednesday morning (27 June) with a discussion of "Technological development without pollution: Is the cost too great?" Larry Ruff (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Paulo Viera (Institute of Urban Action and Social Integration, Mexico), Jean-Philippe Barde (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, France), and Richard W. Judy (University of Toronto, Canada) will explore the technological feasibility of pollution-free industrial growth and its related costs and benefits.

The afternoon of 27 June will be devoted to the topic "Agricultural pollution: Balancing human and ecological needs," with emphasis on the rational use and impact of pesticides and fertilizers. Discussions will be based on papers on the use of pesticides in developing countries and the effects of

rural runoff on water quality. Participants will be Alexander Ortega Corona (International Center for the Improvement of Corn and Wheat, Mexico), Robin L. Vannote (Stroud Water Research Center), Dale Lindsay (Duke University), and Nobel laureate Norman E. Borlaug (International Center for the Improvement of Corn and Wheat).

The second day (28 June) will emphasize the impact of environmental problems on human health. The morning session will be devoted to "Pollution's price: The cost in human health." Vaun Newill (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Douglas H. K. Lee (U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences), Miguel Gil Corrales (ISSSTE, Mexico), and Carlos Diaz Coller (Subsecretariat for Environmental Improvement), will explore the direct and indirect costs of pollution in terms of human health. It will be apparent from the discussions that the costs of pollution are more than just the effect on economic development as the speakers explore health effects of ubiquitous air and water pollutants as well as specific health problems resulting from chemicals and other pollutants.

The afternoon session will continue the topic area of human health under "Bacteriological contamination of water: The impact on human health." Bernardo Sepulveda (Medical Center, Social Security Institute, Mexico), Blanca Raquelle Ordóñez (Technical Council, Subsecretariat for Environmental Improvement), Marion Brooke (U.S. Center for Disease Control), and Jorge Vilches (Subsecretariat for Health and Welfare) will discuss the general problems of water as a vehicle for infectious diseases in developing nations and the socioeconomic impact of amebiasis.

The morning of the third day (29 June) will be devoted to the topic area

"The city: Providing a livable environment." Jerome Kretchmer (former director, New York City Environmental Protection Administration), Peter Self (London School of Economics and Public Administration, Great Britain), Roberto Eibenschutz (Institute for Urban Action and Social Integration, Mexico), and Peter House (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) will review accomplishments in providing a better urban environment and examine alternatives for humanizing it.

The final session on Friday afternoon. "Land-use planning: Assuring rational growth," will emphasize that one of the principal means of controlling pollution lies in early planning efforts in both developed and less developed nations. Various issues and approaches for an integrated program for land-use planning will be presented. Panel members are Jesus Vazquez Soto (Undersecretary for Forestry and Fauna, Mexico), Rowley Barlow (Michigan State University), Emilio Alanis Patino (Bank Mexico), and Oscar Brauer Herrera (Ministry of Agriculture and Husbandry).

In the last decade the countries of the Americas have learned a great deal about the nature of environmental problems and how persistent and intractable they can be. We have learned that economic development carries with it inevitable costs which we no longer can



St. Louis under smog, 10 April 1966. [Lloyd Spainhower, St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*]

ask the environment to bear alone. Most importantly, we have learned that solutions to these problems can be found only through intelligence, good will, and mutual cooperation. "Ecology and deterioration of the environment" is intended not only to foster discussion

and debate of the issues, but also to provide yet another forum through which we may reaffirm our commitment to seek solutions together.

NORMAN L. RICHARDS
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Washington, D.C.

Tourist Card Information and Travel Regulations for Mexico City

Because "Science and Man in the Americas" is taking place in another country, don't automatically think that air travel costs make attendance out of the question. Ordinary air coach fares to Mexico City from most parts of the United States are less expensive than coast-to-coast flights within the United States. In addition, AAAS, through VIA Convention Planners, is arranging special group flights to Mexico. (See 20 and 27 April issues of *Science* and April *Bulletin* for travel arrangements and registration forms.)

To enter Mexico, U.S. and Canadian citizens must have a tourist card (provided by airlines as part of the ticketing process) and valid proof of citizenship (birth certificate, voter's registration card, passport, or affidavit of nationality). While in Mexico your tourist card should be with you at all times; it is surrendered upon leaving the country.

The proof-of-citizenship document must be shown upon reentering the United States or Canada.

For other than U.S. and Canadian citizens, the process may be different from country to country. It is suggested that you contact immediately the near-

est Mexican Government Tourism Department or the Mexican Consulate.

Many AAAS members are planning to travel with other members of their families; therefore the following information is important. Every visitor 15 years of age or older must have his own separate tourist card. A child under 15 years of age can be included on a parent's Single Entry card, but if there is any possibility of the child returning without the parent, separate cards should be obtained.

A minor (under 18 years) traveling alone in Mexico must carry a valid passport or birth certificate and a notarized letter in duplicate, signed by both parents or guardians, authorizing the minor to make the trip.

If a child is traveling with only one parent, a notarized letter from the other parent must be presented to obtain the tourist card.

Since this is an
international meeting
it is imperative
that you return your
registration
and travel forms
immediately
so that they may be
properly processed