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The editorial board of the journal Folia Geographica is pleased to make the best of the rare occasion and to publish the monograph "Landscape-ecological Plan as a Tool to solve the Environmental Problems of Urbanization in Kathmandu City". It is the result of an international scientific project carried out at the Institute of Landscape Planning and Garden Art TU of Vienna in the years 1985-1987.

In spite of the delay, it did not lose any of its theoretical, methodological, didactic and applied significance with regard to the increasing ecological and environmental problems that trouble this metropolitan area under the ongoing process of globalization. Apart from that it can also serve as a pilot study for landscape-ecological planning in other developing countries.

The mission of the mentioned project was, beside other, verification of the possibility to apply the Slovak landscape ecological planning methodology "LANDEP" to the solution of ecological and environmental problems in the genetically, functionally, and physically completely different territory of Kathmandu City.

This methodology boasts several advantages such as the system openness, universality of application, information expressiveness and direct applicability. It depends on its inner five-step structure and a tight bilateral linkage between the text and maps of the LANDEP methodology proceeding from the analysis through synthesis, interpretation, and evaluation up to the proposal of an ecological land use optimization. Results of this monograph indicate that the selected landscape-ecological methodology means not only a contribution to land use optimization, but it also offers a solution to the environmental problems in the Kathmandu Metropolitan Area.

On the basis of a successful presentation of the particular landscape-ecological plan elaborated by this methodology at various international scientific events, its tests carried out in several European and world countries resulted in adoption of this method by foreign experts.

It became an internationally accepted methodology of landscape-ecological planning. It was also accepted by the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe, and the documents of the Conference of the United Nations Organizations on the Environment in Rio de Janeiro 1992. It is included in Agenda 21 as one of the proposed methodologies for the integrated protection of natural resources. It was successfully applied in many countries all over the world.

Editorial board of Folia Geographica dedicates this monograph Prof. RNDr. Milan Ružička, DrSc. co-author of the LANDEP methodology and founder of the International Association of Landscape Ecologists and the international journal *Ekológia* (Bratislava) on the occasion of his 80th anniversary as a humble expression of recognition of his contribution to the development of landscape ecology and landscape ecological planning in particular.

*Editor*

*Prof. RNDr. Eva Michaeli, PhD.*