

course, the field of nuclear research continues to move forward today. But nuclear power is inherently dangerous and, despite of claims of improvements in safety, scientists agree that another catastrophe could still happen anytime and anywhere. Nuclear energy has many advantages such as no emissions but spent fuel, which unfortunately people haven't learnt how to utilize. Also nuclear energy provides several times more energy than other types of power plants. It is rather cheap. On the other hand, it causes environmental issues such as health effects on population near nuclear power plants and workers, risk of cancer, greenhouse effect and heat waste. So most of the modern European countries refused using nuclear energy.

In the Republic of Belarus we propose to use alternative energy sources that are sustainable and do not pose the accident risks inherent in nuclear energy production. These sources include bioenergy, geothermal, wind, solar and hydrogen energy. Many more sustainable resources could be found and current resources improved if better technology were available and if the government and utilities actively promoted their development.

И.В. Пучинская, Е.И. Михайловская

УО БГЭУ (МИНСК)

FROM WILDLIFE PROTECTION TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

In recent years the attention of world science has been focused on investigating interaction between society and environment, economy and ecology. Today's hottest issue for humanity and its future peaceful development is the environmental problem of saving life on Earth.

In the early period of civilization development human impact on the environment wasn't significant. However, the statistics for the period from 1600 to 1900 AD look uninspiring: the scientists estimate that over the period of 400 years 83 species of mammals, 113 species of birds, 21 species of reptiles, 23 species of fish and 384 species of higher plants had disappeared.

Nowadays the activities of human beings have become the most powerful geological force. As a result, it has led to horrifying consequences. It's common knowledge that today two thirds of the world's forests are destroyed, 200 million tons of carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere and about half of all productive land is disturbed by erosion. Moreover, currently almost 20,000 species of plants, 320 species of fish, 48 species of amphibians, 1355 species of reptiles, 924 species of birds and 414 species of mammals are under threat of extinction. It has been proved that reducing the number of species violates the delicate balance of nature, thus, this process can be dangerous not only for nature but also for humanity on the whole.

Because of the fact that today's world peace depends not only on the threat of an atomic war and human aging but also on the reasonable solutions of environmental problems, more and more international organizations are engaged in preservation and protection of wildlife in general and animals in particular. One of the most well-known animal protection organizations was founded in Great Britain under the name of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). The main goal of this organization is preventing cruelty both to wild and domestic animals. The organization is well-known for its aggressive media campaigns, supported by celebrities. Such organizations as World Wildlife Fund for Nature, founded in 1961, or People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which was founded in 1980 by two animal rights activists, have become famous due to their aggressive media campaigns, especially advertisements.

Belarus is not very actively integrated into the international community regarding wildlife protection, but some positive steps have already been taken. The first Belarusian community, the Society for the Protection of Animals, was established in Brest in 1992 under the name of "Ehinos." Another society uniting the people that can't stay indifferent to the cruelty to animals is the Public Association of the Protection of Animals, EGIDA, established in 2006. It does really enormous work giving home to a great number of neglected and stray animals and helping them find new masters. According to the founder of EGIDA Natalya Belyanova, the cruelty to animals seen around made an enormous impression on her, and led to creating the

organization, which now has got 24 official participants and hundreds of volunteers. EGIDA supports everyone who cares for animals. It carries out free sterilization and castration for its volunteers' animals. The web-site of EGIDA brings together a great number of people who want to speak for animals' rights. According to the founder, one of the main goals of their activities is to inform people about existing problems and explain that they can raise their hands not to offend, but to protect.

В.Л. Якубчик, О.С. Сикирицкая

УО БГЭУ (МИНСК)

WATER FOR PEOPLE, WATER FOR LIFE

We've entered a new era: the twenty-first century. Of course, it's exciting and we are trying to predict what our life will be like in the future. Anyway, it's up to us to look after our planet and try to make it a better place to live.

Possibilities of extensive growth of consumption of water resources in the world remained for only 10-15 years, thus even our country can get scarce of water by 2030. The shortage of water will cause structural reorganization of the world economy.

And now we will tell you about the situation which will be in Belarus. As you know, in Belarus the standard of use of water per day which makes 140 liters of water on the person is entered. And if you exceed this limit, water will cost dearer. We consider that it is correct, it will force people not to spend water so. We carried out small research, and counted up how much water a person spends on the average a day - about 200 liters. By the way people do not consume 80 liters of water, for example while brushing teeth or washing dishes they pay attention to other things and so on. Just think how much water do people use in a day? So if we count this amount of water you will see that these are about 2,000,000,000 liters of water and 800,000,000 liters of this water people pour out simply in the sewerage. And it's only in a day. How can we fight against it? Should we switch on water heating systems in the bath for 3 minutes instead of 15 minutes and wash dishes not under a stream of water but just in a sink which is full of water.