

## FOREWORD

The international Conference on Acidification and its Policy Implications, organized by the Government of The Netherlands, in cooperation with the United Nations - Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), was held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 5 - 9 May 1986.

In June 1984 about 30 countries met in Munich (Federal Republic of Germany) to review the serious deterioration of natural environments in Europe and Northern America. Consensus was reached on the seriousness of the problem. The third session of the Executive Body in July 1985 in Helsinki confirmed this view.

The countries participating in the Munich Conference, aware that acidification is an extremely complex phenomenon, agreed to review regularly the state of scientific knowledge in this field. Minister Winsemius offered, on behalf of The Netherlands Government, to host the first meeting.

The ECE at its 40th session in April 1985 welcomed the initiative of the Government of The Netherlands to hold the Conference in cooperation with the ECE.

The Conference was attended by more than 300 people from 26 countries including 24 official delegations from ECE member countries.

The proceedings from the Conference contain the full opening statements by P. Winsemius, Minister of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment of The Netherlands and K.A. Sahlgren, Executive Secretary U.N. Economic Commission for Europe. The Opening Session was followed by a Session on the Effects in the Environment, where a number of review papers on the different effects in environmental media were presented. Next to the effects on the aquatic environment, effects on flora, fauna and vegetation, also effects on materials, cultural properties, the ecology as a whole and the economic impact of acidification were reviewed.

The second day of the Conference was dedicated to a detailed introduction of forest-dieback: the potential stress factors and the effects on materials and cultural properties. The final session of the presentations of scientific research results dealt with models as tools for abatement strategies. Especially the application of models in policy making was underlined. Finally a general effects overview was given by the Chairman of the Conference, D.J. Kuenen.

The review papers of scientific research on acidification are followed by the official report of the Conference presented within the ECE context. This report is followed by the national presentations, as given on the fourth day of

the Conference, by representatives of ECE member countries. These national contributions dealt with the overviews of national research programmes and policies regarding acidification. These contributions are followed by the final remarks of P. Winsemius made during the Closing Session of the Conference.

Also included in these proceedings are a subject index referring to the papers describing the scientific research results, a list of official delegations from the ECE member countries and finally a complete list of all participants to the meeting.

The successful conduct of an international conference of the magnitude of this first Conference on Acidification and its Policy Implications in Amsterdam, depends on the cooperation and dedication of numerous individuals and groups to whom the present editor, Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Conference, is deeply indebted. It would be impossible to acknowledge here all those who contributed in many ways to the organization of the Conference and its associated events, as well as to the subsequent preparation for publication of the present proceedings. I would like, however, to express my sincere appreciation to a number of specific individuals whose very hard work and cooperation contributed to the final success of the Conference.

The organization of the Acidification Conference, especially the preparation of the final programme was made possible with the aid of the members of the National Advisory Committee, listed in the present volume, the Session Chairmen and Rapporteurs. In particular I would like to mention D.J. Kuenen, who also served as the general Chairman for the whole Conference. A task he fulfilled with firmness, with full appreciation of the scientific content of the meeting, and above all with dedication.

I am especially appreciative of the excellent work performed by J. van Ham of SCMO-TNO, who served as international secretary to the whole Conference, to S. Zwerver and W.J. Kakebeeke from the Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment, as active members of the Organizing Committee, to the members of the Conference Bureau, Mrs. O. van Steenis, Mrs. P.W.A.M. Venis-Pols and Mrs. L. Reijchard, without whom the organization of the Conference and its successful conduct would not have been possible. I am also grateful for the excellent organization and conduct of the programme for accompanying guests by Mrs. M. Schneider and for the organization of the two receptions and the boat trip through the Canals of Amsterdam by the Burgomaster and Aldermen of the city of Amsterdam and Mrs. A.M.J. Smits van Oyen and Mrs. M.J.C. Nooteboom from the Ministry of Public Housing, Physical Planning and Environment. Thanks are also due to the National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene in Bilthoven, the power station Gelderland in Nijmegen, the Institute for Plant Protection in Wageningen, the KEMA in Arnhem and Geosens B.V. in Rotterdam for the organization of the technical visits during the Conference. The considerable

assistance and interest of members of these above mentioned institutes certainly contributed to the success of the Conference. Of extremely great value to the Organizing Committee was also the excellent help given by the representatives of the Marriott Hotel, Amsterdam, venue of the Conference, J.Heesbeen and co-workers, by Jacot for technical assistance and translation facilities, by W.van Doorn for slide presentations during the Conference, by Mrs.A.Trottier, Mrs.C.Marteau, A.Dorogi, Mrs.N.Sideris, V.Poliakov, Mrs.G.Levitina and Mrs.G.Maréchal for the translation during the Conference, by Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., Mrs.H.Manten, for the rapid and successful presentation of these proceedings and finally a special word of thanks is due to Mrs.O.van Steenis who took also care of the final preparations for these proceedings, including a large number of changes, corrections and adjustments in the prepared papers, in time to meet the the deadline for publication.

I hope that these proceedings from the International Conference on Acidification and its Policy Implications, will be helpful as a reference volume, both for research scientists and policy makers.

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