



**FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY OF YUGOSLAVIA  
(ENRY2001)  
Belgrade, Yugoslavia, September 27 – 30, 2001**

## **ENRY2001 ACTIVITY REPORT**

**The First International Conference on Environmental Recovery of Yugoslavia - ENRY2001**, was held from 27-30 September 2001 in the Jugopetrol Business Center, Milentija Popovića 1, 11000 Belgrade.

The Conference was initiated by Prof. Dr. Jasmina Vujić from the University of California at Berkeley (California, USA) and Dr. Tatjana Jevremović from Purdue University (Lafayette, Indiana, USA), with an objective of initiating the overall environmental recovery of Yugoslavia through the presentation of existing problems in Yugoslavia, discussion of modern technologies for site remediation, and defining future directions for scientific, financial, legal and social aspects of restoring and protecting the environment.

A large number of domestic and foreign experts quickly joined this initiative because they realized the urgency of initiating tangible actions for the recovery of environmental situation in Yugoslavia. At the beginning of a Third Millennium, besides global environmental pollution problems, Yugoslavia is facing the problems of a seriously endangered environment and natural resources, significant environmental pollution around industrial complexes, and dramatic degradation of living conditions and public health because of a decade of devastating economic sanctions and, in particular, the NATO bombing in 1999.

Because these problems include some of the most complex issues and challenges for science, technology and society in general, the team of experts that was involved in organizing the conference included scientists and experts from universities, various institutes, industry, and health institutions in order to cover a wide range of issues such as technology, science, physical chemistry, geophysics, biology, agriculture, medicine, and psychology. As a result of the devoted work of this group of experts, the Conference was organized in less than eight months, despite very challenging political instability in Yugoslavia and in the entire world. It must be emphasized that the Serbian Unity Congress was involved in the Conference organization from the very beginning, and supported continuing

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efforts the as the first sponsor. From the large number of contributors, only the key personnel leading the efforts of different committees are listed here (the complete list can be found at [www.enry2001.org](http://www.enry2001.org)): Mr. Milan Gavrilović (EPS) and Prof. Dr. Jasmina Vujić were Co-Chairs of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Radisav Vidić (University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA) and Prof. Mihajlo Mesarović (CWR University, USA) were Co-Chairs of the International Program Committee, Mr. Jadranko Simić (Federal Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Policy) and Dr. Zorka Vukmirović (AAOM) were Co-Chairs of the Local Program Committee, Dr. Zora Žunić (Vinča Institute) and Dr. Tatjana Jevremović were Co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee. Executive Committee was comprised of Dr. Srba Jović (Aerospace Computing Inc., USA), Prof. Dragan Veselinović (PMF), Dr Tatjana Jevremović, Dr Vojin Joksimović (USA) and Prof. Jasmina Vujić (USA).

A number of domestic scientific and higher education institutions, industrial firms, domestic and foreign non-governmental organizations, and business and professional societies joined the efforts to organize this Conference. Sponsorship by the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Republic of Serbia significantly enhanced the visibility and importance of this Conference. Honorary sponsors of the Conference were the President of the FRY, Dr. Vojislav Koštunica, and the Serbian Orthodox Church Patriarch, His Holiness Pavle. Honorary Chair of the accompanying program "Youth and Environmental Protection" was HRH Princess Jelisaveta Karadjordjević.

The conference opening was on September 27, 2001 in the "Jugopetrol" Business Center, Milentija Popovića 1, New Belgrade. The opening ceremony was attended by more than 400 participants and numerous journalists. The welcoming address by the conference Co-Chairs, Prof. Dr. Jasmina Vujić and Dr. Tatjana Jevremović was followed by a message from the President of Yugoslavia, Dr. Vojislav Koštunica, that was delivered by Ms. Borislava Kruška, president of the City Assembly of Pančevo. Prof. Jasmina Vujić delivered a message from His Hollines, Patriarch Pavle. Dr. Zoran Djindjic, the Prime Minster of Serbia, greeted conference participants and delivered a firm commitment from the government of Serbia for environmental improvement and announced a formation of a new Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment as well as passage of new environmental legislation. HRH Princess Jelisaveta Karadjordjević stressed the need for enhancing knowledge and understanding of the environment and emphasized the role that youth can play in that process. Mr. Gaudenz Ruf, the Swiss Ambassador to Yugoslavia who represented the general conference sponsor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), greeted the conference participants. He discussed traditional Swiss participation in humanitarian activities around the world and emphasized that the Swiss government is ready to help Yugoslavia realize some of its environmental projects with financial assistance in 2001 in the amount of 50 million DEM. Dr. Tanja Knežević addressed the participants in front of federal institutions, while Prof. Dr. Dragan Domazet, Minister for Science, Technology and Development for the Serbian government, discussed a new program for scientific development of Serbia until 2010 that will insist on the development of new technologies that are in compliance with the needs for environmental protection and improvement. The opening ceremony included the address from Mr. Branislav Lečić, Minister for Culture in the Republic of Serbia, Prof. Dr. Marija Bogdanović, Rector of the University of Belgrade, and Dr. Krunoslav Subotić, Director of the Vinča Institute for Nuclear Sciences. One of the General Sponsors, The Serbian Unity Congress, was represented by Mr. Miroslav Djordjević who emphasized that this Conference points towards a real possibility of establishing the collaboration between our experts in the

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country and abroad on projects of utmost importance for the country. He urged the participants to implement the positive experiences from this Conference in future projects. Conference participants were greeted by Slavica Lazić-Vuksanović from the Federal Institute for Maintenance and Development of Inland Waterways and Mirjana Božidarević, President of the Stari Grad Municipal Assembly. The Conference organizers also received a letter of support from HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia.

The conference included 142 presentations from about 320 authors from 21 countries (presentations were organized in about 40 sessions which were held in two halls), as well as three teleconference presentations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Over 200 experts from all fields, including about 40 from abroad (about 10 were of Serbian origin), participated in the Conference. More details about the Conference, including the entire program, can be found at <http://www.enry2001.org>.

One group of Conference presentations focused on the consequences from the destruction of industrial complexes resulting from NATO bombing, damage to the environment throughout the period of economic sanctions, specifics of the air, water, and soil degradation, damages to the biodiversity, food quality, medical and psycho-social consequences for the population, etc. The second part of the Conference was devoted to the technologies and approaches for the remediation of the environment, issues in organizing such activities, and required activities for future protection of the environment. The third group of presentations were specific proposals for remediation and recovery of industrial complexes and other “hot spots”. We will emphasize only several interesting sessions: Environmental Impact of War in Yugoslavia, Status of Environment in Yugoslavia Prior to the NATO Air Strikes, Environmental Consequences Caused by Destruction of Industrial Facilities, Degradation of Ground Water Environment, Toxic and Heavy Metal Contamination, Biomedical Effects, Psychosomatic and Social Consequences, Ground Water and Soil Remediation, Environmental Recovery and Organizations and Projects, and Experiences and Potential in Nuclear and Alternative Energy Sources.

Special attention should be given to three seminars by the U.S. EPA that were organized by Dr. Walter Kovalick, Director of the Technology Innovations Office, together with Drs. Jasmina Vujić and Radisav Vidić. These seminars discussed latest methodologies for identification and ranking of contaminated sites and application of the latest and most economic technologies for their remediation. The U.S. EPA also generously donated numerous copies of various reports and CDs that were distributed among Conference participants. All three seminars are available for downloading in PowerPoint format at <http://clu-in.org/enry/>. The two seminars organized by Prof. Dr. Marija Todorovic entitled “Renewable Energy and Material Resources, Environmental Technologies, Ethics and Nonpathological Development for Sustainability” are also worth emphasizing here.

Special achievement of the Conference comes from a significant number of presentations that focused on the possible health impact of depleted uranium ammunition used during the NATO bombing campaign in 1999. A total of 19 presentations from authors coming from 9 different countries were given in 4 consecutive sessions regarding: (a) the use of DU weaponry, and (b) measurement techniques and sampling methodology. Together with domestic experts, 11 prominent world experts from 8 institutes for the first time offered their independent measurements and assessment of the situation in Bosnia, Kosovo and southern Serbia. Lively discussion followed in the Discussion Panel. Conclusions from this Panel are included in the general conclusions from this Conference. Depleted uranium sessions were organized by Dr. Zora Žunić (Vinča Institute) in collaboration with Dr. Jasmina Vujić. The DU papers from the Conference will be also published in a

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special issue of *Archive of Oncology*, a scientific journal published by the Institute for Oncology from Sremska Kamenica, Yugoslavia. Experts from abroad also visited the southern Serbian region around Vranje and locations of Bratoselce and Pljačkovica, where depleted uranium ammunition was used.

A number of activities and manifestations accompanied this Conference. The "Youth and Environmental Protection" program was organized under the patronage of HRH Princess Jelisaveta Karadjordjevic and in collaboration with the Children's Friends Society from Belgrade. This program included a competition among elementary and high school students in literary and artistic works focused on the environment as well as the organization of various environmental and ecological projects. Selected works were displayed at the Conference site while most of the paintings and other artistic works were auctioned and monetary contributions were given to humanitarian projects. The best paintings were reproduced on greeting cards that were also sold during the Conference.

The awards in the "Youth and Environmental Protection" program were given by HRH Princess Jelisaveta Karadjordjevic: 18 awards for paintings, 3 awards for literary works, 6 awards for projects and 5 awards for teachers. The first place was awarded to the project "Water from Lok – Our Treasure" that was achieved through collaboration between two elementary schools: "Svetozar Miletić" from Lok and "Isidora Sekulić" from Šajkaš. The students from these two schools received outstanding reception by Conference participants during their presentation on Friday, September 28, 2001. A short documentary about their region was followed by the presentations of the main ideas of the project including possible implementation. The model of the ecological park that is to be built around a spring of medicinal water was on display throughout the conference. Second and third place in the category of elementary schools were awarded to "St. Sava" school from Rumenka and "Miloš Crnjanski" school from Belgrade, respectively. The first place in the high school group was awarded to Aleksandar Pavić, student of the "Vera Blagojević" high school from Šabac for his paper on "Impact of Šabac Industry on the Environmental Condition of the Sava River". His paper will be published in the Conference proceedings and he will represent Yugoslavia at the ecological conference in Canada next year. Second and third place were awarded to the Ecological group from the "Vuk Karadžić" high school in Loznica.

Several excellent documentaries were shown during the Conference: "Natural Heritage Under the Bombs" produced by Institute for Protection of Nature of Serbia; "Pančevo Spring 99" – producer Cine Pro from Pančevo, author Miloš Nikolić, photography Bogdan Petrov, music Dragan Nikolić; "Niš in the Hell of War" – produced by NTV, RTV-5 and RTV "Belle Amie, author and director Mr Novica Randjelović; "Gatherer of the Herbs" (author Slobodan Popović) and "Survival of Degenerics" produced by the ZOOA Wildlife Society in collaboration with ECO-Studio from Belgrade.

The owner of "Jefimija" Gallery Slavica Mladenović decorated the Conference hall with hand-made authentic Serbian rugs and table covers, and invited all participants to the "Jefimija" Gallery " exhibition at the Russian House on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Association "Hi Neighbor" displayed and sold selected needlepoint and other hand-made craft by refugees as a part of the Program for Social Integration and Psychological Support. Panel exhibition by several cities presented their local ecological problems and suggestions for possible solutions. The Conference was greeted by the Hot-Air Balloon Competition participants on September 27<sup>th</sup> – the Aerotrade balloon was carrying the ENRY2001 banner. All participants were invited to a cocktail party at the Belgrade City Hall by the Mayor of Belgrade Radmila Hrustanović (on September 28<sup>th</sup>), where a beautiful musical program was prepared by the Academic Choir "Španac".

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Although the participation of a larger number of international organizations and companies was expected by the organizers of the Conference, an unstable political situation in Yugoslavia and abroad did not allow it. However, having in mind that this is the first conference in a series of similar events, the organizers hope to bring in a large international participation in the future.

The Conference location was moved from "Sava Centar" to the "Jugopetrol" Business Center, after a generous offer by Jugopetrol to become a general sponsor of the Conference. The following sponsors were responsible for the success of the Conference:

- (a) General Sponsors - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNESCO, NIS – Jugopetrol Beograd, Plovput Beograd, and Serbian Unity Congress, USA;
- (b) Main Sponsors - Ministry of Science, Technology and Development, Serbia, Yu; Federal Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Care, Yu; Ministry of Health and Social Policy – Serbia, Yu; Ekokec, Realestate Agency - Belgrade, Yu; Ericsson, Belgrade, Yu; Hydrometeorological Institute-Serbia, Yu; Jaroslav Černi Institute, Belgrade, Yu; Electric Power Industry of Serbia, Yu; Individuals, USA; Publicum, Yu; Renaissance Travel, USA; Stari Grad Municipality, Belgrade, Yu; Studenica Foundation, USA; The Hercegovina Charity Fund, USA; The Serbian Benevolent Society, USA; Uno Martin, Sabac, Yu;
- (c) Sponsors - Aerotrade, Belgrade, Yu; Application, Belgrade, Yu; GEMAX, Belgrade, Yu; Individuals, Japan; Jefimija Gallery, Belgrade, Yu; NIS – Oil Refinery, Belgrade, Yu; Revision Agency, Belgrade, Yu; Simpo Company, Water Factory Rosa, Vranje, Yu.

The preliminary conclusions were formulated and accepted during the last day of the Conference. Several working groups were formed to work on the final conclusions. The overall agreement was that the Conference was very successful in the presentation and analysis of the environmental problems caused by the NATO bombing and a long period of economical sanctions, as well as in outlining the ways to remediate the situation. These are some important preliminary conclusions and recommendations:

- 1) This is just a beginning of the work on ecological recovery of Yugoslavia, and more activities are being planned for the future;
- 2) There is a large potential in experts of all profiles in the country, as well as abroad among the international experts of our origin, that could work together to initiate collaboration with international scientific institutions, companies and financial organizations
- 3) This collaboration should be initiated by our experts through various proposals that could be a starting point for a broader collaborations with international institutions and organizations;
- 4) It is necessary to establish a pool of young researchers and experts which will be educated through this collaboration to carry on the implementation of modern methodologies for environmental protection and recovery under the specific conditions in Yugoslavia;

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- 5) The full papers (there 142 papers by 320 authors from 21 countries) will be published in the Conference Proceeding in 3-6 months.
  - 6) A new ENRY Organization has been established to carry on with the realisation of the Conference conclusions and recommendations. The name of this Organization should be changed to ENPRY – Environmental Protection and Recovery of Yugoslavia).

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