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**Ten Years of *Problemy
Ekorozwoju/ Problems of
Sustainable Development***

Dziesięć lat Problemów

*Ekorozwoju/ Problems of Sustainable
Development*

2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the existence of *Problemy Ekorozwoju/ Problems of Sustainable Development*, a semi-annual journal which consistently promotes the idea of sustainable development.

The actual beginnings of *Problemy Ekorozwoju* are to be sought in casual and informal conversations, which took place at numerous academic conferences devoted to the idea of sustainable development, which was gaining popularity in Poland at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries. In this context, it is worth mentioning the symposium on *Sustainable development in politics and scientific research*, which took place in Kazimierz Dolny on 3-4.12.2001; the conference on *Philosophical, economic, engineering and natural conditions of sustainable development* in Olecko on 20-21.06.2003; the conference on *Philosophical and social conditions of sustainable development* in the seat of the Wigry National Park in Krzywe near Suwałki on 17-19.06.2004; and finally the conference on *The philosophical foundations of sustainable development* in Kazimierz Dolny on 23-25.09.2006. These events brought together all those concerned with environmental issues, the questions of ecophilosophy and the concept of sustainable development. We need to acknowledge here the true *spiritus movens* of both these symposia and the foundation of the journal, a member of the Committee of Environmental Engineering of the Polish Academy of Sciences prof. Lucjan Pawłowski.

In January 2006, the first issue of *Problemy Ekorozwoju* was published. The subtitle described the nature of the journal as *Studies and philosophy and sociology*. The editorial team consisted of Editor-In-Chief, Artur Pawłowski from Lublin University

of Technology and Deputy Editor-In-Chief, Leszek Gawor from Maria Curie-Skłodowska in Lublin (later from Rzeszów University). They perform these functions to this day. The Editorial Committee included prominent Polish scientists who in their studies address, among others, the issue of sustainable development: Jerzy Błazejowski from the University of Gdańsk, Wojciech Bołoz from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Tadeusz Borys from Wrocław University of Economics, Józef M. Dołęga from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Włodzimierz Galewicz from Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Zbigniew Hull from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Stefan Kozłowski from The Man and the Environment Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Anna Latawiec from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Lesław Michnowski, a member of Poland 2000 Plus Forecast Committee at the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Andrzej Papuziński from Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Lucjan Pawłowski from Lublin University of Technology, Zdzisława Piątek from Jagiellonian University, Wiesław Sztumski from the University of Silesia in Katowice, Włodzimierz Tyburski from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, and Stanisław Zięba from the Catholic University of Lublin. The journal received the ISSN number 1895-69-12. The address of the editorial department has been (as it remains to this day) Lublin University of Technology, the Faculty of Environmental Engineering, located at Nadbystrzycka Street 40 b, 20-618 Lublin. The patronage over *Problemy Ekorozwoju* was taken by The Man and the Environment Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In the editorial to the introductory issue of the journal, the Editor-In-Chief formulated its guiding principles. He wrote, among others: *contemporary humans have possessed technological means which allow them to transform the world in practically any way. At the same time, people become lost amongst the goals of these transformations. Technological powers have been sufficient to entirely destroy the biosphere for years, and even if it does not happen, exhaustion of fossil fuels and other raw materials is a real and close perspective. Moreover, the state of the environment is continually deteriorating on a global scale. (...) At the same time, the disproportions between the poor and rich countries are growing. Although the global food production is sufficient to satisfy everyone's needs, millions of people are still suffering from starvation. Furthermore, social conflicts are intensifying, and the reason behind it is often poverty. Growing automation leads to an increase in unemployment*

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and results in forming groups of unnecessary people who dwell on the margins of the contemporary civilisation and are gradually excluded from it. These selected challenges are enough to show how complicated and difficult the situation of the contemporary world is. Can this apparent crisis be overcome? In order to make it possible, the concept of sustainable development has been formed. It is not just another programme of protecting the environment, as the perspective of necessary actions is much broader. The voice of naturalists is still important; however, the arguments of philosophical, economic and technological sciences are also to be taken into consideration.

This introduction clearly and distinctly outlines:

1. The ideological framework and the programme of *Problemy Ekorozwoju* in the form of the idea of sustainable development.
2. The goals of the journal – diagnosing all the phenomena occurring in the modern world which constitute a threat to the continued existence of human civilisation, as well as searching for the ways to prevent such trends, destructive for the humanity and
3. An interdisciplinary format of the journal, open to texts written by representatives of sciences from all areas and disciplines, as well as by practitioners – in a word, all these who have something significant to say in the context of current civilisational threats and the possibilities of avoiding them. That was the reason why the journal was especially open to texts addressing the issues of ecophilosophy as well as of philosophical, environmental and socio-political aspects of sustainable development. Such a framework, as evidenced by the contents of the twenty issues of *Problemy Ekorozwoju* published to date, is consistently respected and realised.

To celebrate the 5th anniversary of the foundation of *Problemy Ekorozwoju*, two articles were published analysing the journal's achievements to date. Zbigniew Hull and Ignacy S. Fiut studied the articles published in the journal for the presence of the issues of sustainable development and ecophilosophy. It turned out that over 90% of texts concerned the idea of sustainable development to a greater or lesser extent, while strictly ecophilosophical articles were far less numerous, namely 50% during the first two years of the journal's publication and 20% in the years 2009-2010². It proves the adequacy of the general formula of the journal, which became an important platform of transferring ecological,

ecophilosophical and zoological ideas, as well as issues concerning sustainable development. In this context, it would be worth studying publications from the subsequent five-year period, or from the whole ten-year period of the existence of *Problemy Ekorozwoju*.

An important date in the history of *Problemy Ekorozwoju* was 2008. It was then, starting from vol. 3, no. 1, that the journal came under the official patronage of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg, Austria. Thus, a new stage in the development of *Problemy Ekorozwoju* began thanks to the international character it acquired. As a result, the Editorial Committee was significantly enlarged. It was joined by (some of them even earlier): Johann Baumgaertner from the University of Milan, Italy; Dan Golomb, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA; Józef Hoffmann, Wrocław University of Technology; Gjalt Huppes, Institute for Environmental Studies, the Netherlands; John Ikerd, Columbia, USA; Chris Laszlo, Sustainable Value Partners, Inc., USA; Marek Haliniak, the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection; Ishikawa Masanobu, Kobe University, Japan; Antoni Sanchez, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain; Felix Unger, the president of the European Academy of Science and Arts, Salzburg, Austria.

It was also then that the second English title of the journal appeared: *Problems of Sustainable of Development*, with the subtitle *Journal of the European Academy of Science and Arts, Salzburg*. The address of the editorial department and the publisher did not change. In the situation of the newly acquired international character of the journal, it was understandable that the editors decided to gradually shift to publishing the obtained materials in English – the modern *lingua universalis* of the world of science. The journal began to print articles in two languages simultaneously and from vol. 1, no 1, 2013 it has been published in English exclusively (with Polish titles of the articles, their summaries and general information about the journal). Apart from its traditional form, *Problemy Ekorozwoju/Problems of Sustainable of Development* is also available on the internet under the same title.

The journal has acquired a strong position among academic journals. It was reflected when the journal was noted in Web of Science, where it ranked first among other Polish academic journals, with the impact factor of 0.5 for the years 2007-2011. In this period it was also on the second place in the Scopus database. This issue was described in detail by Yucheng Cao in an article devoted to the presentation of the position of the journal in the years 2006-2011 among other Polish journals addressing similar problems. The highest impact factor was

² It needs to be remembered here that the idea of sustainable development often appears in the context of ecophilosophy.

reached in 2012, when it was as high as 1,98. At present, it is lower – 0,804, but we believe that the new principles of reviewing, directed at a better placement of the published articles in the context of the profile of the journal, will increase this important factor again.

The first issues of *Problemy Ekorozwoju* included only articles by Polish authors, mainly from the circle of environmentalists and philosophers, in which the idea for the journal was first developed. Their achievements in the research into the idea of sustainable development have been noticed abroad, as evidenced by the fact that some of them (A. Pawłowski, Z. Hull, Z. Piątek, W. Tyburski, A. Papuziński, A. Skowroński, L. Gawor) were invited to contribute to a special issue of the English journal *Sustainable Development* entitled *Review of Research on Sustainable Development in Poland*, (Wiley-Blackwell, England, vol. 16, no. 2, March-April 2008). The subsequent issues of *Problemy Ekorozwoju/Problems of Sustainable Development* included articles by foreign authors, at the beginning – sporadically, and later on a regular basis. Until the end of the 2015, the journal published articles written by scientists from Austria, Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the USA. Thanks to this entirely international profile, the journal became a significant platform of exchanging environmentally involved ideas throughout the world.

The development of the journal also involved adding new members to the Editorial Committee. Its composition, published in full in the last issue from 2015, apart from the already mentioned members was supplemented over time by including the following people: Yucheng Cao, Zhejiang Agricultural and Forestry University, China; Ignacy S. Fiut, AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow; Ryszard Janikowski, Katowice School

of Economics; Jan Krokos, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw; Micheal S. Pak, Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon, South Korea; Franciszek Piontek, the University of Dąbrowa Górnicza WSB; Michael Redclif, King's College, London, England; Delyse Springett, Massey University, New Zealand; Stanisław Skowron, Lublin University of Technology; Peter Strachan, Aberdeen Business School at Robert Gordon University, Scotland; Peter A. Wilderer, Institute of Advanced Studies on Sustainability, Munich, Germany; Tomasz Winnicki, the Faculty of Life Sciences and Technology, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences; Lech W. Zacher, Kozminski University in Warsaw. Moreover, the position of Editorial Assistant was added to the editorial department, and this function is performed by Agnieszka Żelazna from Lublin University of Technology; while Katarzyna Wójcik-Oliveira, also from Lublin University of Technology, is responsible for the editorial department office.

We also need to mention the irreparable losses that the Editorial Committee of *Problems of Sustainable Development* suffered together with the whole environment of conservationists and scientists involved in the protection of nature. In 2007, Stefan Kozłowski passed away, in 2013 – Dan Golomb, and in 2014 – Józef Marcełi Dołęga. The journal published short notes *in memoriam* of these distinguished scientists.

During the ten years of its existence, *Problemy Ekorozwoju/ Problems of Sustainable Development* has acquired an esteemed position among academic journals in the country thanks to its authors. It is also respected abroad. It has become a significant platform of exchanging environmental ideas, especially those focused on the issues of sustainable development. Therefore, the future of the journal seems optimistic; we hope that the discussion around sustainable development will continue.

