

its operation, I would have been interested to have read more on the political, cultural and organisational processes which resulted in nurses taking on such a significant role in the Norwegian medical emergency system. But I guess that's another story.

Notes and References

1. R. W. Dunford, *Organisational Behaviour. An Organisational Analysis Perspective*, Addison-Wesley, Sydney, Australia, 1992.
2. E. De Poy and L. N. Gitlin, *Introduction to Research. Multiple Strategies for Health and Human Services*, Mosby, St Louis, USA, 1994, p. 287.

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Adrian V. Gheorghe (Ed.)

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The *International Journal of Environment and Pollution* is a UK-based refereed journal. It is unclear whether it is published bi-monthly as stated on its inside cover, or quarterly as stated a couple of pages on. The journal's objective is to 'establish an effective channel of communication between policy makers, government agencies, academic and research institutions and those concerned with pollution and other environmental issues and problems'.

The Editor-in-Chief of the Journal is M. A. Dorgham from The Open University, UK and he is assisted by a European Editor, an American Editor and an internationally based Editorial Board. Those who referee for the journal or have a paper or commentary published in it, as well as those nominated by the Editorial Board, are eligible to become 'Environmental and Pollution Associates' who support the Editorial Board through refereeing and contributing to the journal.

The journal accepts advertising although the only evidence of this was a call for papers and a conference announcement. The journal also includes, apart from the refereed papers, letters to the Editor, news and briefs, company profiles, conference reports and book reviews. This particular issue, however, only included book reviews in addition to the papers. Very useful indexes to the current volume by title, author and keywords are also provided.

The journal tends to feature special issues with guest editors and this particular special issue on 'Integrated Regional Health and Environmental Risk Assessment and Safety Management' is jointly published with the Polyproject on Risk and Safety of Technical Systems, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zürich.

This issue is longer than normal, over 400 pages and represents Nos. 4-6 in the volume for 1996. It consists of 25 papers grouped into five sections, following a short editorial by Adrian Gheorghe from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, which explains Polyproject's approach to risk assessment.

The first section is on 'Regional risk assessment: issues and analytical techniques'; the second on 'Risk and safety of technical systems'; and the third is on 'Issues in risk management and emergency preparedness and planning'. There is very little critique of risk assessment *per se* and no real analysis of general approaches used by risk assessors. The targeted audience is clearly those who want to apply the methods discussed or are researching such methods.

The approach throughout is fairly technocratic with the human dimensions limited to those that can be managed and the social shaping of risk assessment, perception and communication neglected. A notable exception is the paper on 'Safety culture and its reflections in job and organizational design: total safety management' by Gudela Grote and Cuno Künzler from the Work and Organizational Psychology Unit, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH). Their paper uses a socio-technical systems approach and incorporates dimensions such as organisational culture.

Other papers cover integrated regional risk assessment, health risk assessment, environmental risk assessment, legal aspects of regional safety management, eco-management and auditing. Various papers apply risk assessment to risks ranging from landfills and toxic chemicals to industrial accidents and biotechnologies. Experiences in the UK, Europe, Scandinavia, China and Kuwait are included.

Part 4 includes case studies of risk assessment from various parts of the world—Zagreb in Croatia, Bombay, the Philippines, Latvia and Eastern Europe. These case studies are generally quite short and readily accessible to less technically trained people such as policy-makers and students although a couple go into much more detail and give plenty of technical data. For example, the case study of an integrated risk assessment in Pasig, Laguna de Bay area, in the Philippines, includes a long table with inventories and classifications of hazardous substances and plenty of equations and calculations.

The final section on 'Advanced concepts and information technologies' consists of two papers, one by Bent Sørensen, a Danish expert who is well known in the field of risk assessment, on the role of life-cycle analysis in risk assessment. The other is by Giampiero Beroggi from Delft University of Technology and examines the role of information and communication technologies in safety management.

This special issue would clearly be very interesting to researchers and practitioners in the field of risk assessment and safety management but many of the papers would have less appeal outside of this specialist community and one wonders how much other subscribers of this journal on environment and pollution would find of interest in its 400 plus pages. However, there are some accessible papers and even the more specialist papers tend to have more general introductions.

Judging by the contents for other issues of the journal in this volume, the mix of general and specialist papers is typical of the journal. Past papers have ranged from those on 'Scientists and the broader community' (by Australians I. J. Barnes and S. A. Wilson) and 'Environment, technology and corporate responsibility' to those on 'Mesoscale transport of air pollutants over Athens: implications for air quality' and 'Immobilized microbial reactor for heavy metal pollution control'. Such a variety is certainly useful for a library acquisition for universities, government departments and engineering or scientific organisations. I am not sure of the value of personal subscriptions, although clearly people will find special issues, such as this one, particularly useful in their areas of expertise, particularly given the wide international coverage of the journal.

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