

Gehr, P., Kost, C., Stephan, G. (ed.): **CO₂ - Eine Herausforderung für die Menschheit.** - Springer-Verlag, Berlin - Heidelberg - New York - London - Paris - Tokyo - Hong Kong 1997. ISBN 3-540-61660-8. 208 pp. paperback DM 45.00, öS 328.50, sFr 40.50.

“A simple chemical molecule—CO₂—developed into a compound of highest political and economical vigour. In the preface of the reviewed paperback volume, the editors expressed so simply the principle of the world's recent problem called 'global climate change'. This phenomenon, mainly the still increasing CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere and its effect on climate, vegetation and human community was the topics of an international symposium organized by the Forum for General Ecology of the University of Berne, held in April 1995 in Interlaken, Switzerland. Leading scientists, mainly Swiss and German, engaged in science, politics, economy, and administration discussed not only the impact of global climate change on biosphere but also biological and technological possibilities, including the use of market instruments, to prevent the greenhouse-effect.

Fifteen contributions prepared by 24 scientists review the global interrelationships of carbon cycle between ocean and atmosphere, history of variations in CO₂ concentration on Earth, effects of antropogenic activities on the development of global climate change, possible reactions of biosphere, effects of temperature and precipitation, *etc.* Special attention is paid to modelling and predicting future development of global climate. Most contributions are focused mainly on Alpine region or on countries of the European Community.

All the contributions not only review recent knowledge on the topics discussed, but present many ideas and models of future development of world climate and propose how to solve the future problems. This is the main advantage of this book which is produced in good Springer's standard and contains numerous references to recent literature. However, even a short subject index would be welcome.

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