

WELCOMING ADDRESS

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

The president of CIEC, Prof. Jelenic, has charged me with presenting the welcoming address of the International Scientific Fertilizer Society.

In preparation for its 5th Symposium, which will deal with the problems of nitrate and heavy metal pollution of water in two separate sections, the Hungarian Organizing Committee asked me to serve as the honorary president for the Symposium. I accepted this invitation gladly and at this time would like to thank you again. This gives me the opportunity not only to praise the exceptional work of the Organizing Committee of this Symposium and its excellent program, but also to actively support this meeting to the best of CIEC's ability.

I first want to thank the Organizing Committee and its chairmen, Prof. Debreczeni, Prof. Petrasovits, and Dr. Vermes as the general secretary, furthermore the sponsors and official authorities of the host country as well as the participants from more than 24 countries who, I am sure, will not only enjoy the traditional Hungarian hospitality, but also find it an excellent idea to hold this conference at such a lovely site with such a beautiful landscape. I would also like to thank the Hungarian trade union for making this hotel with all its facilities available to this symposium.

In conclusion to my welcoming let me add in my capacity as honorary president something about the aim of this conference planned collectively by CIEC, the Hungarian Society of Agricultural Sciences and the Hungarian Hydrological Society. Instead of treating the problem of increasing environmental pollution from a single point of view, the goal of this symposium should be to understand and study all of the essential factors involved in environmental pollution and to compare them with each other, that means replacing the usual monofunctional relationship between only one polluting factor and its impact on the waters by a polyfunctional relationship between all essential factors involved in the polluting scenery. Analyzing environmental problems from various viewpoints ensures a more accurate evaluation and enables the effective planning of the most appropriate measures, eliminating the danger of wasted time and money for ineffective methods.

All essential pollutants should be analyzed in national models. The economic structure of a country characterized by its agriculture, trade, industry and urban development policy is reflected by its effects on the environment.

National models of this type then enable an international comparison and the evaluation of harmful factors extending over national boundaries; thus, cooperative plans for protective measures can be made.

Such a national model for the Federal Republic of Germany with respect to the nitrate pollution of inland waters has been worked out by Dr. Timmermann and myself and will be presented in the appropriate plenary lecture.

In this model the major causes are diagrammatically classified, based on the present state of our knowledge. Hereby, the participation of the essential harmful factors on the total nitrate load in surface waters and groundwaters is demonstrated and evaluated.

This model thus represents a good starting point from which advances and improvement can be made through the cooperation of institutions and organizations interested in or involved with environmental problems.