
Preface

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The editors are pleased to present this selection of papers on earth-based macro-engineering projects as a special volume of the *Int. J. Global Environmental Issues*. One may wonder what macro-engineering has to do with the environmental issues, but this is easily explained. Whenever a macro-engineering project is planned or is carried out, its sheer size will cause a disruption of the local, or even the regional environment. This means that the decision to go ahead with such a project always means that the benefits for mankind must be weighed against the environmental drawbacks.

Against every ecological outcry, however, we want to point out that when an ecology is destroyed, it is not replaced by a void, but by a new environment with sometimes exciting and unexpected possibilities.

Every collection of papers around a subject is based on chance and has some arbitrary traits. Yet, we feel that we have collected an exciting collection of new ideas, sometimes wild and even bordering on science fiction, but always thought-provoking. The subjects range from water to energy, transport and environment and even briefly touch on natural hazard mitigation.

It is interesting to see that in most of these projects, the Earth is not just playing a passive role, as the object on which 'IT' happens, but its local properties and behaviour

form an intrinsic part of the project, even to the extent that the Earth sometimes serves as a natural 'georeactor'.

Guest Editors

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