

ALL-RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE “LANDSCAPE PLANNING”

In October 2011, the All-Russian scientific and practical conference “Landscape planning” was held at the Faculty of Geography of Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU). The conference was organized by the joint efforts of the Faculty of Geography (MSU), the Institute of Geography (IG) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), the Russian Geographical Society, and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research. The conference was attended by more than 120 representatives of universities and academic science as well as by employees of engineering companies, federal authorities, and non-governmental organization.

Academician Nikolay S. Kasimov, Head of the Organizing Committee and Dean of the Faculty of Geography (MSU), opened the conference. Two plenary sessions were held. K.N. Dyakonov, Corresponding Member of the RAS, and A.V. Khoroshev (MSU) presented the concept of landscape planning, developed at MSU, and a review of current challenges and objectives in landscape planning. E.Yu. Kolbovsky (Yaroslavl) talked about “Landscape collisions and ecological problems in the system of strategic spatial planning”. Academician L.G. Rudenko, Director of the IG of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, presented the framework of landscape planning implementation in Ukraine. A. Herberg (the German Federal Agency for the Nature Protection) and Yu.M. Semyonov (the IG, the Siberian Branch of the RAS) reviewed European approaches and the experience of the Russian-German cooperation in landscape planning. S.D. Mityagin (the Institute of Urban Planning, St. Petersburg) demonstrated examples of the

landscape approach implementation in the nature management planning at the regional level. Chief Architect of the Moscow Region Institute of Urban Planning, O.V. Malinova, discussed challenges for landscape planning emerging from projected expansion of Moscow. E.A. Shvarts (WWF) highlighted spatial problems in the living nature protection. A.V. Drozdov (IG, RAS) made a review of scientific, institutional, and legal foundations for landscape planning in Russia. S.V. Dolgov (the IG, the RAS) presented a hydrological approach to landscape planning and showed impressive examples of the need to adjust planning priorities in relation to the hydrological processes dynamics. Professor of Lvov University (Ukraine), V.N. Petlin, proposed a theory of the landscape spatio-temporal organization as a basis for planning decisions and emphasized the need to consider emergent effects in a landscape. I.V. Ivashkina (Institute of General Plan of Moscow) made the presentation “Urbodiagnosics of the present-day landscapes of Moscow and the Moscow region in the territorial planning system”. Academician V.I. Kiryushin (Agricultural Academy) presented a concept of landscape-adaptive agriculture.

The presentations were made in three thematic sessions: “Theory, methods, legal issues, and education in landscape planning”. “Landscape multifunctionality and regional practice of landscape planning”, and “Landscape planning of protected natural, cultural, and historical areas”. The presentations reflected a wide range of regional examples of functional zoning, ecological situations assessment,

and spatial distribution of anthropogenic loads in a landscape. It is necessary to focus research on the development of the nature protection measures for the territorial planning schemes at various hierarchical levels. The presentations included different hierarchical levels of the landscape approach implementation in territorial planning: local level for functional zoning of cultural heritage objects, and micro- and mesoregional levels for planning suburban areas, intermountain depressions, river basins, etc.

More than 40 people participated in the workshop "Effective land use and landscape planning in development of general plans for urban and rural settlements". The workshop attracted big attention from the employees of engineering companies. The list of the discussion topics included: deficit of methodical and instructive materials, insufficient legal regulations, failures in implementing planning regulations, and poor participation of local communities in decision-making.

The conferences clearly demonstrated the need to implement the results of basic research in geography, ecology, architecture, and socio-economic sciences into practice of territorial planning. Discussions at the conference showed strong focus on modern approaches to the solution of the most crucial challenges:

- Determination of optimal spatial proportions of land use types in a landscape;
- Choice of hierarchical levels in land use decisions in respect to landscape hierarchy;
- Relations between natural and anthropogenic landscape diversity;
- Relations between landscape diversity and multifunctionality;
- Evaluation of the contribution of a local planned area to protection of landscape

and biological diversity of a region or of a large river basin;

- Assessment of land use technologies impact at adjacent or remote parcels on biological diversity of key habitats and potential for their recovery;
- Interaction between anthropogenic loads and biological diversity;
- Design of landscape-ecological networks;
- Procedures of public participation in development of land use scenarios and coordination of stakeholders' interests.

The conference emphasized the investigation of opportunities provided by the present-day landscape analysis for the organization of economic activity including ecological examination and environmental impact assessment. Educational technologies in landscape planning were discussed as well.

The outcome of the conference demonstrated that landscape planning in Russia is now at the first stages of development. The participants came to an agreement that a lack of theoretical and methodological rationales, contradictions in use of terms, and the absence of sufficient legal regulations are the most critical challenges. Integration of approaches developed in landscape planning and landscape architecture is needed. Ideas of landscape planning now are being applied in various methodologies of sectoral planning (agriculture, forestry, urban, and recreation planning). However, landscape-planning is lacking the legal regulation to coordinate conflicting stakeholders' claims. Landscape planning is seen as a transdisciplinary field of knowledge and needs not to limit itself by ecological and socio-economic studies only. Development of humanistic approach and aesthetic criteria, and consideration of non-material interests are critically needed also. Representatives of engineering companies urged to develop quantitative

criteria of optimal proportions of landscape elements and anthropogenic objects. Awareness of Russian experts in international experience of landscape and territorial planning is obviously insufficient. The tradition of the participatory approach and of public discussion of land use scenarios, highly developed in Europe, deserves special attention of Russian specialists.

The Conference decided to organize a permanent internet-based conference on the problems of landscape planning (<http://www.landscape.edu.ru>). The Conference recommended investigating a possibility to work out special legal regulations dealing

with the implementation of landscape planning tools in the system of territorial planning in the Russian Federation.

The materials of the Conference were published in the book "Dyakov K.N. (Ed.). 2011. Actual problems of landscape planning. Materials of the All-Russian scientific and practical conference. Moscow University Publishing House, Moscow. 320 p. ISBN 978-5-211-06258-0" (in Russian) (available at: http://www.landscape.edu.ru/science_landscape_planning_2011.shtml)

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