

Review: Life Support: The Environment and Human Health

By Michael McCally (Ed.)

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Islamabad, Pakistan

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Michael McCally (Ed.). *Life Support: The Environment and Human Health*.
Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002. 312 pp. ISBN 0-262-13414-4 (paper).
US\$19.95

The world is facing environmental crises due to deterioration and degradation of our ecosystem by fast-growing industrialization and mobilization. The atmosphere is a dynamic system with no physical boundaries. It is the duty of every human being and nation to respond by undertaking measures to restore a health-friendly environment.

The reviewed book is an excellent collection of medical/health effects and plans for protection of the general public from the increasing environmental deterioration. It provides data and information useful to health professionals, environmentalists, engineers, decision makers, and citizens, as well as for the organizations and people responsible for generating harmful pollutants.

Twenty-seven professional and practicing physicians and environmental health experts wrote *Life Support*. Its 17 chapters, each dedicated to a specific environment and health concern, covered the full range of issues relating to the effects of the environment on human health.

The editor, Michael McCally, professor at the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Oregon Health Sciences University of Portland, Oregon, arranged these articles by eminent authors in a very systematic order. He also contributed three very valuable articles on "Environment, Health and Risk," "Body Burdens of Industrial Chemicals in General Population" and "Radiation and Health."

This book indeed provides a true spotlight for environmentalists and engineers to focus on the most critical pollutant issues outlined by health experts. The issues discussed are of a diverse nature, which include environment, health and risk; air, water and heavy metal pollution; ozone depletion; climate change; ecosystem and endocrine disruption; body burdens; cancer; war environment; precautionary principles and ethical responsibilities. The distinguished authors have developed the most comprehensive contents on pollutants, their health effects, and precautionary measures useful for health professionals, researchers, and environmentalists.

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