

Anyone interested in the environment, the consequences of human interaction with planet Earth, world affairs, the economy, human and ecological health, and in particular who has had their eyes and ears open since the Fukushima disaster, cannot fail to recognise the significance of this timely publication. It must be noted, however, that this book is predominantly a scientific reference text, and will no doubt become one of the most cited in further publications on geological disposal.

Readers are left in no doubt as to what to expect, as every contributing author sets the scene for their chapters with clear and concisely written plain English. This has been summarised to great effect by Ferenc Toth, who brings together an enormous wealth of international expertise to produce a structured text comprising chapters ranging from 'Thematic Assessments' (e.g. environmental issues, engineering challenges and public acceptance) to 'Regional Assessments' (e.g. North America, Central Europe and Japan).

For readers new to the field, general concepts are introduced so as to be easily understandable, while ensuring that their significance and the importance of the underlying science, policies and implications are not 'dumbed down'. Each chapter follows a similar format of 'contrast and compare', contextualising the material by providing relevant information on the state of research and technological application across selected geographic regions.

I do not know if it is my particular background and training, or what appears to be the collective authors' greater experience, or indeed the more mature status of radioactive waste disposal, but reading of this part of the text was (dare I say it!) enjoyable - indeed fascinating, and by no means dry. That is not to say that other sections (on CO<sub>2</sub> disposal) are any less informative or relevant; they were merely less familiar to this reviewer. My main criticism is a shortage of figures to assist in the explanations of the scientific text.

This is an extremely useful and robust reference book that will be of interest and value to many institutions across the globe.

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