Air pollution

As part of its general programme of research in environmental pollution, WHO has been assisting different schemes for the control of air pollution in various parts of the world. With WHO collaboration, the Institute for Medical Research, Zagreb, Yugoslavia, has undertaken a comparative study of the different methods of identifying and determining metals in airborne particulate matter. As a result of this work, a ring oven method for the quantitative determination of lead has been devised. The technique is also suitable for the determination of aluminium, cadmium, chromium, copper, manganese, and zinc.

WHO and UNDP have collaborated in the establishment of sanitary engineering institutes in South America. The Institute of Occupational Health and Air Pollution, Santiago, Chile, is studying air pollution problems related to copper smelting, rayon manufacture, and radioactive wastes. The Institute of Sanitary Engineering, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has established a regular air sampling programme.

In 1967 WHO established an International Reference Centre on Air Pollution in London, England. The basic objectives of the Centre are to advise the Organization on technical matters in air pollution, to provide consultant services to regional and national laboratories, to carry out research on behalf of WHO, to co-ordinate and evaluate research taking place in many parts of the world, to develop methods for the identification and measurement of air pollution, to collect and exchange scientific information, and to assist in the training of personnel in the field of air pollution. As the work advances further national reference centres and collaborating laboratories will assist in this programme.