

Syul'ban R. valley. At the same time, simple engineering procedures, e.g. the installation of drains and heat insulators, or the conservation and restoration of the moss and plant cover, can reduce the intensity of the melting. This is now being considered as a means of speeding up the stabilization of embankments and eliminating the causes of deformation.

Unfortunately, there are still many cases where the environment is treated carelessly, in fact barbarically. In some places, for example, the engineering work to prepare certain territories for builders' settlements, including the import of gravelly-pebbly fill, eventually altered the natural heat and moisture regime in the root zone of the soil, resulting in the destruction of large trees. In the quest for inexpensive ballast and sand for drainage, many of the gravelly-pebbly river banks and stretches of water close the mainline, especially those around large stations, were destroyed. Consequently, the future inhabitants of BAM settlements lost their natural parks and recreation grounds, while the scarce supply of drainage material was wastefully and detrimentally brought to a conditions of little use for further development, even by means of hydromechanical equipment.

Q: During the construction of BAM, a great deal of experience has been acquired in building under permafrost conditions. Are you making use of this experience now? What lessons have been learned from the mistakes?

A: Both the accomplishments and the errors of BAM can be regarded as a "contribution" to organizations that take an interest in this; for example, they are being taken into consideration on