INDIGENOUS PEOPLE – THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

United Nations Organization assess that there are around five thousand groups of Aboriginal peoples all over the world. It means 370 million people in 70 states. Although one coherent definition of indigenous people does not exist, one can assume that they are communities which developed in pre-colonial times or before the expansion of dominant (nowadays) population. Members of indigenous societies are closely related to environment and natural resources of their land. They also developed the very strong feeling of self-identity, built upon affluent material and spiritual culture. Unfortunately “being different” results in social exclusion. In many cases governments’ efforts to solve those situations failed and minorities are the subjects of discrimination.

The article is going to open series of publications dedicated to various indigenous groups. The authors aim is to depict the variety of cultures and their connection to environment. Particular stress is also put on the social problems of the populations including demographic, economical and political ones. In the first paper Aboriginal Australians are presented.

Dr Anna Janiszewska
Dr Ewa Klima
Katedra Gospodarki Przestrzennej i Planowania Przestrzennego UŁ