

Editorial

This expanded issue is the fortieth since the founding of the journal **Karka** [land] in the fall of 1971.

In this journal, we have tried over the years to realize the goals set out in the first edition: to serve as a forum for the clarification of problems and different approaches to land policy and to publish news about land use in Israel.

Our thanks to all the writers who have contributed and to the readers of our journal.

We invite you to increase your participation, and call upon all those interested in the problems of land policy — especially the younger generation studying issues related to land policy — to view our journal as a forum for the expression of your views.

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Despite the deep and troubling crisis of Israeli land policy and the public interest it evokes, we cannot ignore the problems of the administration of land in Israel.

A clear majority of the population want the proper administration of land in Israel. A time-lag of thirty years is unacceptable for the updating of land settlement registers according to changes in the division of land. The number of unregistered dwellings grows from year to year. Hundreds of thousands of rightful owners have no legal proof of tenancy over the property and land in their possession.

We wrote about this subject in the very first issue of **Karka**, and asked even then, "Can the registration of land rights be expedited?"

Over the years we have continued to sound the alarm in this journal about the harm caused by the delay in land registration; we conducted research about the reasons for this failure and ways to eliminate it; we held discussions about it in our Land Policy Discussion Group; and we raised the problem to senior officials in the relevant ministries.

In this context, we open this issue with an article by **Dr. Asher Solel**, former Chair of the Interministerial Committee for Planning and Implementation of Land Settlement in Israel, on "**Registration of Rights to Land after Completion of Land Settlement**".

Dr. Solel presents the essence of the problem in agricultural and built-up areas, and expresses doubt that the measures taken so far will eliminate the time lag. The author appeals to the