

Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

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| Project Number: | ECF 04/2018 |
| Project Title: | The 9th International Conference on Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology (ICMPE-9) |
| Principal Investigator: | Professor LEUNG Mei Ye Kenneth, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong |
| Total Approved Grant: | \$403,920 or 70% of the total actual expenditure, whichever would be the less |
| Duration: | 1/1/2019 to 31/8/2019 |
| Project Status: | Completed |
| Project Scope: | <p>The “International Conference on Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology” was held in 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016 in Hong Kong, making this Conference series as a signature event in the international arena of marine pollution research. Building on this success, ICMPE-9 held at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and jointly organised by School of Biological Sciences, HKU and the State Key Laboratory in Marine Pollution, City University of Hong Kong. It provides a forum for experts from all over the world to meet and discuss their frontier research, and the latest scientific/technological advancements in this important field, with the following objectives –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a). To advance the participants’ understanding of local, regional and global marine pollution problems and their solutions, hoping that such problems will be more easily resolved in the future; (b). To foster collaboration in research and development among scientists, environmental consultants, policy makers and governmental officers engaging in monitoring and control of marine pollution; (c). To identify knowledge gaps and prioritise emerging research areas in the field; and (d). To train young scientists and environmental practitioners on the latest advances in ecotoxicology, e.g. Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOPs) framework |
| Summary of the Findings/Outcomes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a). 33 world renowned experts in the field of marine pollution and ecotoxicology from Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Philippines, United States and United Kingdom were invited to share their knowledge, experience and latest advancements in the field with some 270 scientists, environmental professionals and environmental regulators; (b). The Conference attracted 303 participants from 17 countries, and received 249 abstracts. Through the three plenary lectures, 18 keynote lectures, 12 invited talks, 78 regular oral presentations and 138 poster presentations, participants were able to learn more about the latest technologies, methods and policies for combating marine pollution; (c). The ICMPE-9 Conference also promoted capacity building and research collaboration. Participants discussed and planned for the development of |

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| | <p>large-scale marine environmental research projects in the Greater Bay Area in particular;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(d). The Conference provided a timely platform for participants from the Government, academia and the environmental sector to exchange their knowledge and experiences in the field, build professional network and establish research collaboration;(e). Training workshops on the adverse outcome pathways and scientific writing were held on 10 and 12 June 2019 for conference participants. The first workshop focused on the use of Adverse Outcome Pathways, and the second workshop was on writing skills for effective scientific abstracts and summaries targeted especially for research postgraduate students;(f). Conference proceedings will be published around summer 2020 as a special issue in the Journal “Marine Pollution Bulletin”;(g). The Conference served as an important update of the most-concerned research questions on environmental pollution, and promoted regional and international collaboration and partnerships. It also served as a platform for scientists of the Greater Bay Area to identify priority research areas and work together towards better understanding of marine pollution problems and development of control measures and solutions in the Greater Bay Area; and(h). Based on a questionnaire survey, 87% of the respondents regarded the Conference as a great conference. |
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