

Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

ECF Project:	ECF 2020-40
Project Title:	The Second International Conference on Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation of Marine Ecosystems (BECoME-2022)
Principal Investigator:	Professor Leung Mei Yee Kenneth, Department of Chemistry & State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution, City University of Hong Kong (CityU)
Total Approved Grant:	\$500,000 or 70% of the total actual expenditure, whichever would be the less
Duration:	01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022
Project Status/Remarks:	Completed
Project Scope:	<p>With the great support from ECF, the First International Conference on Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation of Marine Ecosystems (BECoME2015) was successfully held during 1-4 June 2015 at The University of Hong Kong. This first conference attracted 280 participants from 26 countries, and received over 200 abstracts. Building on this success, the Second BECoME Conference was held during 3-7 January 2022 at CityU. This conference strongly supported the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) of the Government, which was launched in December 2016.</p> <p>BSAP had accomplished its first 5-year plan by end of 2021 when the government departments (e.g., the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Environmental Protection Department, the Civil Engineering and Development Department) and local marine researchers had completed many projects related to biodiversity, ecology and conservation of marine ecosystems in Hong Kong. This conference served as a timely and essential platform for them to share their findings and achievements with local stakeholders and overseas' researchers, and showcase our BSAP efforts.</p> <p>The BECoME-2022 conference aimed to provide a platform for knowledge transfer and idea exchange; foster research collaborations; identify knowledge gaps and prioritise research areas; train young scientists and environmental practitioners, and solicit experts' advices on practical issues related to local marine biodiversity conservation and fisheries management. Target participants would be from 200 to 300.</p>
Summary of the Findings/Outcomes:	The Second International Conference on Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation of Marine Ecosystems (BECoME-2022) was successfully held during 3-7 January 2022 in hybrid mode at City University of Hong Kong. With financial support from ECF, the Croucher Foundation, and other organisations, the project team invited 67 experts from Australia, Belgium, China, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, and USA to share their expertise and latest research discoveries at this conference. The conference attracted over 340 participants from 33 countries and received over 190 abstracts. There were 67 invited talks, 70 oral presentations and 47 short

	<p>presentations (i.e., 184 talks in total). The conference provided a timely platform for participants from academia, government, NGOs, the environmental sector, and the business sector to exchange knowledge and experience in the field, build professional network, and establish research collaboration. There were also three special thematic workshops on eco-shoreline designs (held on 3 January), stable isotope (7 January AM), and marine spatial planning (7 January PM). Conference proceedings would be published in 2023 as a special issue in the Elsevier journal <i>Regional Studies in Marine Science</i>. Based on a questionnaire survey, 96.5% of the respondents (n = 57) regarded BECoME-2022 as a great conference.</p>
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