

Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

ECF Project:	ECF 2020-42
Project Title:	The 4th International Forum on Asian Water Environment Technology (IFAWET-4)
Principal Investigator:	Dr Alicia An, School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong
Total Approved Grant:	\$458,500 or 70% of the total actual expenditure, whichever would be the less
Duration:	1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 (The Conference was held from 10 to 11 December 2021)
Project Status/Remarks:	Completed
Project Scope:	<p>Challenges posed by the Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic have drawn increasing attention to the water supply and wastewater sectors globally. Information is key in addressing emerging issues, which include access to water supplies, sanitation, hygiene, and financial impacts. The IFAWET-4 will explore the frontiers of science, technology and practice, and provide a platform for scientists and practitioners to discuss issues ranging from Covid-19 to cutting edge and practical levels on water environment technologies. The goal of this forum is to provide the latest knowledge on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a). Emerging pollutants removal and Covid-19 Wastewater-based epidemiology in the water environment; (b). Membrane technology for water treatment and resource recovery; and (c). Disinfection and water management strategies that address current and emerging water issues. <p>One of the aims is to strengthen the water environment research network in Asia, placing Hong Kong in a position to lead advanced water research in both the Greater Bay Area and globally. Additionally, it will provide a platform for discussions and debates among water leaders and young talent, and thus we welcome all scientists and practitioners to exchange their knowledge on water environment technology amid this turmoil.</p>
Summary of the Findings/Outcomes:	<p>A two-day conference titled “The 4th International Forum on Asian Water Environment Technology (IFAWET2021)” was held during 10 – 11 December 2021. The conference aimed to share the most recent technological innovations and scientific developments associated with water resources management, water treatment technology, and water/environmental issues including emerging pollutants, resource recovery, and energy efficiency amid the Covid-19 Pandemic era.</p> <p>Due to the current epidemic restrictions, the mode of the conference was held online. It was divided into three webinar sessions chaired by the field experts invited from various well-known institutions in Japan (University of Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Toyama Prefectural University), South Korea (The Ghent University, Global Campus), India (Institute of Science and Technology (IIT)), and Hong Kong (The University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and City</p>

University of Hong Kong).

All the 19 speakers who delivered their talks in these three sessions were holding a PhD degree with a minimum designation of postdoc or above (i.e., research assistant professor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor).

An interactive poster session was also organized to encourage the postgraduate students for sharing their research and ideas. Post-presentations, several parallel Q&A sessions were enabled via Zoom Breakout Room Function where each presenter was assigned a dedicated room to display their major findings and to respond the queries of audience. This interactive arrangement also provided a wonderful opportunity to the students to interact with the research-oriented audience and field experts and perform interdisciplinary research in the future. The shortlisted students were also awarded as “Best Presentation Award” for their significant research contribution.

32 young researchers from different institutions presented their research findings during the interactive poster presentation sessions in the conference. The conference attracted more than 200 participants from various regions around the globe.