

## Summary Report on the 19th Mainland-Taiwan Environmental Protection Conference (MTEPC)

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**The 19<sup>th</sup> Mainland-Taiwan Environmental Protection Conference (MTEPC)** was held from May 17 to 21, 2019 in Tianjin (天津). Two hundred and eighty-five Chinese environmental scientists, engineers and graduate students from Mainland, Taiwan, and Overseas attended the conference. A total of 176 technical papers were presented in eight concurrent technical sessions, including 38 technical papers presented by graduate students working on their master or doctoral degrees. All of the technical papers were edited and published by the conference organizing committee in conference proceedings (digitized in a USB card). In addition, there were 32 posters of research studies by graduate students displayed during the Conference.

At the opening ceremony representatives from the three organizing bodies addressed the audience; they were Vice Secretary of Tianjin University, the past president of Overseas Chinese Environmental Engineers and Scientists Association (OCEESA), professor Qin Qian (錢琴) (photo 1), and professor Shang-Liang Lo (骆尚廉) of Taiwan University from Taipei. After the opening ceremony all the participants were invited to take a group picture (photo 2).



*Photo 1: Prof. Qian addressing the audience at the opening ceremony*



*Photo 2: Group photo following the opening ceremony*

In the plenary session six invited speakers spoke over a wide spectrum of topics with respect to latest advances in environmental protection science and technology, directions of future water-management-mined city design and endeavors of China’s environmental protection businesses. Professor Kai-Min Shih representing OCEESA was one of the six invited speakers and made a presentation entitled “材料礦物學技術於污染防治與資源回收的應用” (photo 3). Different from the previous conferences was invitation of a non-Chinese speaking scholar – Professor John Crittenden of George Tech, with a presentation title of “The Application of Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOPs) and Development of Electrochemical Advanced Oxidation Processes (EOPs)”



*Photo 3: Prof. Shih as an invited speaker at the plenary session*

Four OCEESA members attended the conference - Professors Qin Qian (錢琴), Kaimin Shih, (施凱閔), Pao-Chiang Yuan (袁保強) and Dr. Kuo-Kuang (許國光). They were actively

involved in the conference and interacted with other participants. Their activities during the conference are to be reported below.

In this summary report, a few highlights of the 19<sup>th</sup> MTEPC are provided below.

### **1. Highlights of the 19<sup>th</sup> MTEPC**

The conference was second most attended only next to the one held at Wuhan (武漢). All sessions proceeded on schedule, and facilities and convenience were adequately provided for interaction among attendees. From the arrival of guest attendees in Tianjin till departure, reception, registration, dining, etc. were all arranged diligently with genuine hospitality by Tianjin University – we appreciated.

In addition to the traditional organizing trio (Environmental Protection professionals in Mainland, Taiwan and Overseas), for this conference, from Tianjin and Beijing three institutes joined as assisting organizations and three companies and one institute as supporting organizations. Such addition demonstrates a successful expansion of the conference to reach into industry/businesses.

An MTEPC Consultative Committee meeting was held on the evening of May18, 2019. The committee made the following important resolutions.

- (1) The next MTEPC will be hosted by Taipei University of Technology (臺北科技大學, abbreviated as 北科大)<sup>1</sup>, assisted by Tianjin University (天津大學). Conference timing is tentatively set in November, 2020.
- (2) Qingdao University of Technology (青島理工大學) expressed strong interest in hosting the 21th MTEPC and the Consultative meeting welcomed the intention with tentative decision on the conference at such location.

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(3) The Consultative committee will establish two awards to be presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> MTEPC: Life-time Achieve Award (終身成就獎) and Extraordinary Contribution Award (卓越貢獻獎).<sup>2</sup>

(4) With the existing platform of the Consultative Committee, some senior committee members propose to further promote interactions in such scopes as environmental protection education, science and technology and industry/business both in Mainland and in Taiwan.

On the fourth day of the conference (May 20, 2019), some conference participants went for site visits to (Tianjin) Limutai (梨木臺) (photo 4), where Tianjin University conducts extensive geological ecology studies. On the return, the team stopped by Eastern Royal Tombs of the Qing Dynasty (清東陵) briefly to view the commingling of nature and history.



*Photo 4: A natural scene of Limutai in Tianjin*

## **2. OCEESA Participation in the 19<sup>th</sup> MTEPC**

Activities of OCEESA's attendees can be summarized in a few occasions:

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<sup>2</sup> Extraordinary Award is to be presented to those who will have made outstanding contribution to the establishment and continuing support of the MTEPC (Mainland-Taiwan Environmental Protection Conference).

- The past President, Professor Qin Qian (錢琴), addressed at the opening ceremony.
- Professor Kaimin Shih delivered a keynote speech entitled “材料礦物學計術於污染防治與資源回收的應用” in the plenary session.
- In addition to the keynote by Prof. Kaimin Shih, four papers were presented by the four OCEESA attendees.
  1. *Water quality modeling with data collected by wireless sensor networks (WSNs) in an experimental pond: A case study*  
Presenter: Professor Qin Qian (錢琴)
  2. *End of Useful Life Computer Recycling Program at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi, USA*  
Presenter: Professor Pao-Chiang Yuan (袁保強) (photo 5)
  3. *Qualitative X-Ray Diffraction for Characterizing P Recovery Products from Wastewater*  
Presenter: Professor Kaimin Shih (施凱閔)
  4. *Cleanup of MSW-Gasified Synthesis Gas*  
Presenter: Dr. Kuo-Kuang Hsu (許國光) (photo 6)



*Photos 5 and 6: Prof. Yuan (l) and Dr. Hsu (r) made presentations in the session of “Solid Waste Management and Reutilization)”*

- At the closing ceremony, Professor Qin Qian presented special awards to outstanding conference contributors in recognition of their superb support to the conference over the past years. (photo 7)





*Photo 7: Awards presented to outstanding conference organizers. Left to right: Kuo-Kuang Hsu (OCEESA), HongBo Liu (Tianjin U.), Pen-Chi Chiang (Taiwan U.), Wan-Fa Yang (Taiwan U.), Qin Qian (OCEESA), XiaoLong Shao (Tianjin U.), Shang-Liang Lo (Taiwan U.) and Pao-Chiang Yuan (OCEESA).*

- At the closing ceremony, Professor Qin Qian presented OCEESA's Best Paper Awards, which was a great encouragement to graduate students. The presentation was a highlight to and brought a delightful moment at the closing ceremony. Nine awards were given with OCEESA certificates and a \$100 cash award each. (see Photo 8)



*Photo 8: Best Paper Awards presented by OCEESA*

- All four OCEESA participants attended the organizers' Consultative meeting and engaged in active discussion regarding future directions of the conference, in particular, at the time in preparation for the 20<sup>th</sup> MTEPC, a major milestone of the Conference.
- Off the formal conference sessions, OCEESA members actively interacted with Tianda (天大) helping graduate students providing advices on career, new development directions in Environmental Protection domain, or even discussion of fundamental methodology of research, etc.
- Dr. Kuo-Kuang Hsu attended the ecological site visit (on May 20).

During the 19<sup>th</sup> MTEPC, all the four attending OCEESA members exchanged views informally concerning involvement of the organization in the future MTEPCs. General consensus is (a) to encourage more members to attend the conference, (b) to encourage members to be more engaged in the conference in a more meaningful fashion, and (c) to recruit more environmental protection professional (outside the mainland and Taiwan) to join the OCEESA organization.