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## News: JES Symposium at the 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Environmental Chemistry

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of *Journal of Environmental Sciences (JES)*, a special JES symposium was held at the 9th National Conference on Environmental Chemistry (NCEC), in Hangzhou, China, on October 19–22, 2017. More than 6100 registrants participated in the conference. Co-organized by Professor X. Chris Le of the University of Alberta, Canada, Professor Guibin Jiang (Liu et al., 2016b) of the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Professor Chunxia Wang of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) (Jiang et al., 2016), with the support of Drs. Yi-Jun Yao of Zhejiang University and Qingcai Feng and Suqin Liu of the JES Office, the JES symposium showcased 13 invited presentations and 21 posters.

The JES symposium started with a keynote presentation by Professor Jerald L. Schnoor of the University of Iowa, an Editorial Advisory Board member of JES (Feng et al., 2016) and former Editor-in-Chief of *Environmental Science and Technology*. Dr. Schnoor's informative presentation highlighted his recent findings on plant/microbe transformation of PCB congeners and metabolites. His presentation was followed by invited lectures, given by Professor Chris Le (Cullen et al., 2016; Le, 2016; Moe et al., 2016), Professor Weixian Zhang of Tongji University, Professor Hailin Wang (Li et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2015a) of the Research Center for Eco-environmental Sciences, CAS, Professor Xinbin Feng (Wu et al., in press) of the Institute of Geochemistry, CAS, and Professor Jingwen Chen (Wang et al., 2018; Xie et al., 2015) of Dalian University of Science and Technology. These presentations covered diverse topics of environmental chemistry, such as arsenic in the environment, imaging of contaminants on the solid-liquid interface, oxidation of DNA 5-methylcytosine in embryonic stem cells and the effects of nickel(II), stable isotopic evidence for mercury accumulation in forests, and photochemical behaviour of antibiotics and related environmental contaminants.

Seven invited lectures were also presented by the recipients of the inaugural Outstanding JES Publication Awards. These awards were selected from nearly 1000 articles published in JES between 2013 and 2015, covering diverse topics of environmental sciences.

Professor Hongbin Cao (Chen et al., 2015) of the Institute of Process Engineering, CAS, described advanced oxidation technology and its applications to the treatment of organic pollutants. A good example of their studies was on the Fenton-like degradation of 4-chlorophenol (Duan et al., 2014).

Professor Xingang Liu of Beijing Normal University presented a lecture on the mechanisms of haze formation and its control. He summarized a series of studies that were conducted in collaboration with Professor Yuanhang Zhang of Peking University (Han et al., 2015a, 2015b; Li et al., 2015; Sun et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016a).

Professors Shuxiao Wang of Tsinghua University discussed the “current and future burden of disease from major outdoor air pollution sources in China”. Her dynamic collaboration with Professor Jiming Hao of Tsinghua University has resulted in prolific publications on the topics of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Long et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2015), mercury (Ancora et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2016), haze (Han et al., 2016), and air quality modeling and policy implications (Ding et al., 2016; Zhu et al., 2015).

Professor Shujuan Zhang of Nanjing University reported her recent work on understanding electrophilic reactions in the environment. Her group has also studied the behavior of nanomaterials, e.g., carbon nanotubes (CNTs), in the natural aquatic system (Zhou et al., 2015).

Professor Haifeng Qian of Zhejiang University of Technology discussed the effects of blue green algae on the population of microorganisms in Lake Taihu. This work complemented his recent collaborative study with Professor Zhengwei Fu, examining the effects of herbicides on microorganisms in the rice rhizosphere (Chen et al., 2017).

Professor Pengjie Hu of the Institute of Soil Science, CAS, described technologies for the remediation of cadmium in agricultural lands. This work extended from his previous collaborative research with Professor Longhua Wu, studying the “effects of water management on arsenic and cadmium speciation and accumulation in an upland rice cultivar” (Hu et al., 2015; Newbigging et al., 2015).

Professor Aiqin Wang of Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics, CAS, described adsorption behavior of new materials.



**Fig. 1 – Representative speakers and organizers at the JES Symposium. From left to right: Qingcai Feng, Pengjie Hu, Weixian Zhang, Haifeng Qian, Shujuan Zhang, Jingwen Chen, Ai Qin Wang, Guibin Jiang, Jerry Schnoor, Chunxia Wang, Shuxiao Wang, Hongbin Cao, X. Chris Le, and Xingang Liu.**

He demonstrated potential environmental applications of these materials to the remediation and removal of environmental contaminants (Tian et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2015a, 2015b; Zheng et al., 2015).

Finally, Professor Guibin Jiang, an Editorial Board member of *JES* and Chair of the 9<sup>th</sup> NCEC, and Professor Jerry Schnoor presented the Outstanding *JES* Publication Awards to the recipients.

Five posters of the *JES* Symposium received best poster presentation awards. The award recipients are graduate students from the research groups of Professor Hanqing Yu (Xu et al., 2017) of the University of Science and Technology of China, Professor Wenfeng Shangguan (Cao et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2013) of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Professor Paul Lam (Lam, 2015) of the City University of Hong Kong, Professor Chuanyong Jing (Cui et al., 2015; Yan et al., 2016) of the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, CAS, and Professor Daqiang Yin (Zhang et al., 2017) of Tongji University.

All the presenters, participants, co-organizers, co-chairs, and supports of the *JES* Symposium were acknowledged for their contributions to the great success of the event.

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