水環境国際招聘賞（いであ招聘賞）（JSWE-IDEA Water Environment International Exchange Award）授賞に関して

本会では，水環境分野の国際交流・国際協力の促進を目的として，いであ株式会社からのご出捐により，水環境国際招聘賞と水環境国際活動賞を設けております。水環境国際招聘賞は本会年会で研究発表を行う海外在住外国人会員に対して，来日費用等の助成を行う制度です。第59回年会では，中国2名および，韓国2名の計4名を招聘し，年会会場（北海道大学）にて研究発表を行っていただきました。そこで，受賞者に研究内容や抱負等についてご執筆いただきましたのでご紹介します。なお，今年度の水環境国際招聘賞の募集案内は秋頃に本誌会告に掲載する予定です。

（水環境国際活動賞・招聘賞選考委員会）

JSWE-IDEA Water Environment International Exchange Award

Professor, College of Environment and Safety Engineering, Fuzhou University
Xiaochen Chen

The 59th Annual Conference of the Japan Society on Water Environment (JSWE) was successfully held at Hokkaido University in Sapporo from March 17th to 19th, 2025. As a recipient of the JSWE-IDEA Water Environment International Exchange Award, I was grateful to be invited by the organizing committee to deliver an oral presentation. The conference provided an exceptional platform for academic exchange, allowing me to engage with many distinguished experts in the field of water environment, including several of my long-time colleagues. For someone with a Japanese educational and professional background like myself, this experience was not only a great honor but also the realization of a long-held dream.

My academic journey began with dual bachelor's degrees from China Agricultural University, followed by a master's degree from the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. I then pursued my PhD at the prestigious University of Tokyo (UT) under UT Fellowship. Back then, I focused on developing a natural treatment system for the reclamation and reuse of livestock wastewater as part of a Sino-Japanese collaborative project. An early milestone in my career was receiving the Water and Environment Technology (WET) Excellent Presentation Award in 2013, an achievement I still take great pride in. Later, I moved to Kyoto and joined Ritsumeikan University (RU) as a senior researcher, where I dedicated my efforts to sustainable water resources management. Drawing from the lessons and experiences of the urban agglomeration in Lake Biwa watershed, I have been sharing valuable insights with the global community. Eventually, I returned to my hometown in 2016 and joined Fuzhou University. Currently, I am a Professor, and serve as the Dean's Assistant (in charge of external cooperation) and the Director of the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering. Over the years, I have maintained strong collaborative ties with former supervisors at UT and RU. Funded by Japan's Ministry of the Environment, we are conducting comparative studies among Asian cities to contribute to the development of sustainable water cycles for circular societies.

In addition to the abovementioned topics, one of my current interests is the impact of emerging contaminants on human health. I have observed that conventional heavy metals and emerging microplastics often coexist, leading to complex risks for living organisms. At the JSWE conference, I presented foundational research from my lab on the adsorption behavior and mechanisms of cadmium on microplastics. Our study, which examined the aging effects on various types of microplastics, revealed that crystallinity and surface functional groups play critical roles in these interactions. These findings provide valuable insights into the behaviors of microplastics and heavy metals in aquatic environment and even broader natural systems.

As neighboring countries, China and Japan share many similarities in water environmental characteristics, making scientific collaboration mutually beneficial. The JSWE conference has left me with unforgettable memories and a renewed sense of purpose. I am committed to continuously strengthening our academic bridge, fulfilling a promise I made to myself and to the field I am passionate about. Together, let's address global water challenges.