

INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES
QUARTERLY

IIES NEWS



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THIS ISSUE

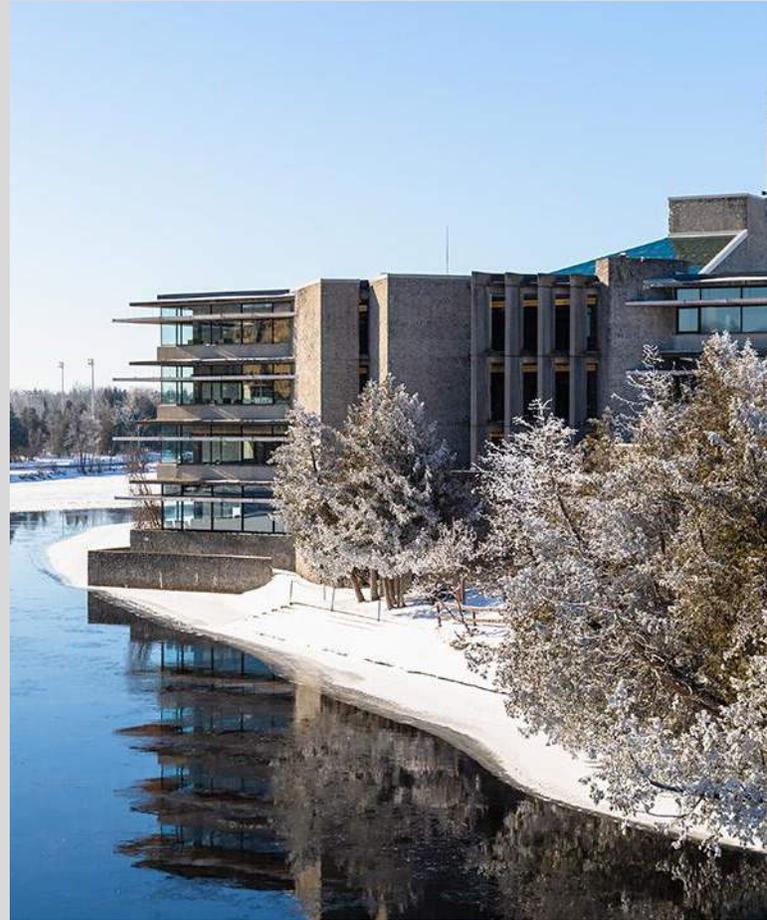
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new decade. As I write the international community is struggling to understand and contain the novel 2019nCoV coronavirus. I hope that you have not been personally affected by this outbreak and that you remain safe and healthy. While trying to deal with the immediate issues of a novel virus, we shouldn't lose sight of other pressing global issues. Many have stressed that the "20s" must be a decade of change in respect to protection of the environment and the climate crisis in particular.

Within the IIES we continue to develop our programs in support of these goals. In particular, IIES is working to develop new programs in the areas of the Water – Energy – Food nexus and circular economies. These are issues that must be addressed if our world is to remain suitable for human habitation. Watch for announcements in the coming months for initiatives in these areas.

Our next annual Science and Policy Workshop is scheduled to be held in Nanjing; you will find more details elsewhere in this newsletter. At this time, it is difficult to predict whether the coronavirus outbreak will affect our ability to hold the Workshop in Nanjing in July. We will provide updates periodically as the situation becomes clearer.



And we hope to hold our annual International Graduate Student Forum in Vietnam in the fall. As well new e-courses are on the horizon. So please watch our website for more details.

On behalf of the Board and Administration of the IIES, I hope that this new year and the decade ahead will be prosperous for you.

Best wishes for 2020 from Julia and me,

Handwritten signature of Douglas Evans

Professor Douglas Evans
Director

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

2019 was another exciting year for the IIES. With the beginning of a new decade we look back on some of the highlights of 2019.

ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES

Environmental & Human Health Risk Assessment

October 2018 - January 2019

Eleven faculty members from ten internationally acclaimed universities shared their research on topics in environmental and human health.

Total participants: 136

Participating institutions: 62

Participating Countries: 20

Air Pollution & Human Health

February – May 2019

Nine faculty members from internationally acclaimed universities offered weekly lectures on the topic of air pollution and human health.

Total Participants: 77

Participating Institutions: 25

Participating Countries: 9

International Graduate Student Seminar Series June - July 2019

This seminar series provided an exclusive opportunity for graduate students around the world to gain experience in presenting their research to an international audience. The series will continue in the 2020 winter-term, see page 6 for more details.



WORKSHOPS, FORUMS AND OTHER EVENTS

Nanjing University New IIES Facilities Opening Event | NANJING | June 2019

This year Nanjing University completed work on the new IIES facilities at the NJU School of the Environment building. The University celebrated the opening with a reception and tour of the facilities in June 2019. The facilities feature offices for the director, associate director, meeting rooms and common rooms for faculty and students.

Undergraduate Summer School | BASEL | July 2019

This year's international summer school on Environmental Health was co-organized by FHNW School of Life Sciences and by Nanjing University's School of the Environment and hosted at FHNW in Basel, Switzerland. The school featured international speakers, a site visit to Roche (Kaiseraugst) and student poster presentations. The program had presentations from personnel associated with the Swiss Centre of Applied Human Toxicology, Department Santé au travail et environnement (Unisante), Trent University, Nanjing University and School of Life Sciences, FHNW. The IIES supported five international students to attend the program.



Students and faculty at the 5th Annual Workshop in Seoul, November 2019.

Graduate Student Forum and 5th Annual IIES Science & Policy Workshop SEOUL | November 2019

The 5th Annual IIES Science and Policy Workshop was hosted this year by Korea University in Seoul, South Korea and was held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Graduate Student Forum and IBI Biochar World Congress.

Total Participants: 75

Participating Institutions: 13

Participating Countries: 6

Student Perspective

SCIENCE IN SEOUL

Verena Sesin, PhD Candidate (Trent University) shares her experience at the Graduate Student Forum and 5th Annual IIES Science and Policy Workshop



Sandra Klemet N'Guessan, Professor Cheng Gu, Professor Margaret Graham, and Verena Sesin at Korea University.

Suitcase packed, followed by a 14-hour flight, welcome to Seoul! I was very excited to participate in this year's graduate student forum and annual workshop, knowing that these events are perfect opportunities to chat and connect with passionate students and experts in environmental studies and beyond. These IIES events foster exchange and collaboration across continents and disciplines. They have been my favourite gatherings throughout my graduate school journey.

Graduate Student Forum: A place to chat about science and life in graduate school

In the first two days, students from more than ten different universities spread across North America, Europe and Asia got together for the forum. Everyone prepared a short talk about their research. We heard about all kinds of exciting studies in progress: Environmental effects of mercury in mine waste; biosorption of rare earth elements; analysis of organic pollutants in microplastics; impacts of urbanization on ecosystem services, and many more.

In addition to individual presentations, students formed discussion groups to chat about writing and publishing scientific papers, as well as graduate life and work atmosphere in their research groups. It was interesting to learn about other students' approaches to surviving stressful times or dealing with difficult situations with their supervisors. Almost everyone had experienced such, and we could learn a lot from each other's advice on how to get back on track or resolve issues. Every group was able to share their stories with a panel of experienced researchers that gave advice and explained their different philosophies of supervising students.

Finally, Professor Yong Sik Ok, our host from Korea University, shared his approach on "How to write and publish a scientific paper" and emphasized collaboration as key to innovative and productive research.



IIES Group photo at the 5th Annual Science and Policy Workshop at Korea University, Seoul, S. Korea.

Science & Policy Workshop: All disciplines gather to tackle environmental issues

The annual workshop was kicked off by a mixer event, at Incheon Memorial Hall on the Korea University campus, to meet everyone and make first connections. The scientific program of the Annual Workshop included plenary talks during the morning and afternoon sessions, a poster social, and ten thematic sessions. We could learn from speakers from a variety of disciplines, ranging from analytical chemistry to circular economy, ecology, ecotoxicology, environmental risk assessment and policy.

Throughout the workshop, five keynote speakers shared their take on cutting-edge research with us. We heard from Professor Raimund Bleischwitz from University College London, on how we can work toward a circular economy, considering interdisciplinary perspectives from economics and social sciences. Professor Daniel Tsang from Hong Kong Polytechnic University,

explained urban waste valorization for a circular bioeconomy. Exploring the challenges and opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement, Professor Asaf Zohar from Trent University discussed ways to fulfil sustainable development goals. Introducing one tool that can contribute to sustainable development, Dr. Ondrej Masek from the University of Edinburgh, talked about biochar and contamination in products. Professor Xiaowen Zeng from Sun Yat-sen University, shared results on her study assessing how air pollution can negatively affect health in Chinese children.

"These IIES events foster exchange and collaboration across continents and disciplines. They have been my favourite gatherings throughout my graduate school journey."

To sum up, these four days in Seoul were a wonderful time, meeting old and new peers, and exchanging ideas and advice. A huge thanks to our hosts and the IIES for organizing this forum and workshop in Seoul and providing

generous travel support that enabled me to have these experiences and share them with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR SERIES

We are pleased to offer this online seminar series again. As an IIES-ENLS (Trent University) initiative, for graduate students by graduate students, this series continues to offer a space for postgraduate students to share ideas and questions freely, providing a unique collaborative learning environment. The series is an opportunity for those who have participated in other IIES events to continue to develop their connections with colleagues from partner institutions, and an opportunity for newcomers to start to build these relationships. This term we are offering the series one talk per day for the week of March 9-13.

ONLINE | MARCH 9-13, 2020

NANOPARTICLES SEMINAR SERIES

Our next online seminar series will focus on nanoparticles and is set to begin in March, and will feature seminars from both IIES member and external faculty.

ONLINE | WINTER/SPRING 2020

TOULON FIELD COURSE: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN MARINE SYSTEMS

This field course will introduce students to the environmental challenges in the southeastern area of France (Northwestern Mediterranean Sea). The course will be highly oceanography-focused, as it is based out of the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO) and University of Toulon and in partnership with IFREMER (French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Oceans).

UNIVERSITY OF TOULON | MAY 9-16, 2020

6TH ANNUAL IIES SCIENCE & POLICY WORKSHOP

Nanjing University will host this year's annual workshop. Workshop themes include: environmental policy, health, remediations and fate of contaminants.

NANJING UNIVERSITY | JULY 16-18, 2020

NANJING SUMMER SCHOOL

This year's international summer school on Environmental Health will be hosted by Nanjing University following the 6th Annual Workshop.

NANJING UNIVERSITY | JULY 20-25, 2020

CIRCULAR ECONOMY INSTITUTE

The IIES is involved in planning and development of a new research institute on internationalization of circular economies. The Institute will be located at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. IIES will provide support for student and faculty from IIES member institutions to take part in the activities of the Institute. The IIES Director will serve on the administrative Board of this institute. It is anticipated that the Institute will formally start in 2020.

SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY | 2020



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