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Second International Ocean Pollution Symposium, 4-8 October 1993

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PREFACE: SECOND INTERNATIONAL OCEAN POLLUTION SYMPOSIUM, 4–8 OCTOBER 1993

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The Second International Ocean Pollution Symposium (2IOPS) was held at the Qinghua University, Beijing, People's Republic of China, on 4–8th. October, 1993. Nearly 100 participants attended the meeting, coming from 18 countries. Professor Jiayi Zhou, State Oceanic Administration (SOA), Dalian, China, was appointed Chairman of this Second IOPS symposium. This special issue of *Chemistry and Ecology* contains papers presented at 2IOPS, and later refereed and accepted for publication. We would particularly like to thank Dr. Tsu-Chang Hung and Dr. Ken J. Collins who handled refereeing and processing of manuscripts submitted from Far East contributors and those relating to ash disposal, respectively.

The overall objectives of 2IOPS, as with the first symposium held in Puerto Rico in 1991, was to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among the world-wide community of scientists involved in research on marine pollution and ocean waste disposal; to enhance the scientific consideration of waste disposal options and marine pollution processes in marine environments; to generate guidelines and recommendations for future studies of oceanic disposal practices and research; and to encourage scientists from developing countries to attend the meeting to gain a more international perspective and to help them in designing and undertaking research leading to a better understanding of marine pollution, and to develop environmentally acceptable practices for marine waste management.

The 2IOPS meeting was opened formally by Professor Zhou, who introduced Mr. Hong-Mo Yan, SOA Administrator. Following Mr. Yan's welcoming remarks to 2IOPS participants, opening Keynote speeches were given by Professor Zeng Chengku of China on "Environmental Oceanology Study of China", Dr. J. M. Bewers of Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada on "The Scientific Implications of Some International Developments", and Dr. D. Tromp of The Netherlands, representing the International Maritime Organization, on "Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Wastes and Other Matter, London Convention, 1972: Its Record and Challenges."

The principal 2IOPS sessions were then opened with presentations being made in the following areas: Environmental Chemistry of Metals, Radionuclides, and Nutrients;

Biological Effects of Contaminants; Coastal Zone and Pollution Management; Environmental Chemistry of Petroleum and Organic Compounds; Stabilized Waste Ash and Artificial Reefs; Physical Processes and Circulation Studies.

At a plenary session chaired by Drs. Ross and Brabante, the International Maritime Organization representatives, papers were presented and discussion ensued on IMO's Global Waste Survey, including the planned time scale for elimination of ocean dumping of industrial wastes.

Professor Edward Goldberg, University of California, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, provided a stimulating speech on "Potential Marine Pollution Problems as We Enter the Twenty-First Century" at the reception held at the Summer Palace.

Overall, the 2IOPS meeting proved very successful with the large number of nations represented, the breadth of the session topics, the timely debate on ocean disposal practices, the quality of the presentations and discussions following paper presentations, with English accepted as a common language, as well as the excellent arrangements for foreign visitors provided by the local committee. In particular, the meeting itself, with its associated ceremonies and mid-week excursions to nearby historic sites, provided an atmosphere that led to fruitful formal and informal exchange of ideas and information among the attending scientists, who represented a wide range of scientific disciplines, a variety of policy and strategy options, and national and international agencies.

Financial support for 2IOPS came principally in the form of a grant from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Unesco, Paris. Chinese and USA institutions or organisations also provided support, including the State Oceanic Administration, China, State Science and Technology Commission of China, Chinese Association of Science and Technology, Chinese National Science Foundation, National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, Ocean University of Qingdao, Qingdao Institute of Oceanology, Academia Sinica, Qinghua University, and Science Applications International Corp., Newport, Rhode Island, USA, and the Waste Management Institute, The University at Stony Brook, Long Island, New York, USA. It is a pleasure to acknowledge all of these benefactors.

The Third International meeting of the series, 3IOPS, will be held in the spring of 1996 at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Fort Pierce, Florida, USA. Specific details of the meeting, including dates for submission of papers, will be announced soon; enquiries on 3IOPS can be directed to Iver W. Duedall, e-mail: duedall@roo.fit.edu, or Fax: 1-407 984 8461.