海洋環境研究中心獲聯合國組織選為卓越研究中心

MERIT designated by UN body as first regional centre of excellence

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由香港城市大學（城大）領導的海洋環境研究及創新科技中心，獲聯合國轄下組織委任為首個東亞海海洋污染卓越研究中心，充分顯示中心在海洋污染研究、監測、評估及管理方面的領導地位。

這次委任經聯合國發展項目東亞海環境管理夥伴關係計劃成員一致通過，包括中國、日本、南韓、新加坡、印尼、馬來西亞、菲律賓、泰國、越南、文萊達魯薩蘭國及柬埔寨等11個成員國，以及16個非國家成員。

這次委任突顯海洋環境研究及創新科技中心的領導地位，確定其研究工作對東亞海地區的特殊貢獻及對該地區持續發展所做的承擔。

中心主任兼城大生物及化學系胡紹燊講座教授表示，這次委任印證城大研究水平卓越，並且具有極高應用價值。

「我們感到很高興，多年來的研究成果能夠幫助各東亞海地區政府及整個世界解決海洋污染問題，改善及更有效管理環境。這項榮譽任命是城大貫徹以應用知識貢獻社會理念的又一明證，」胡教授說。

作為東亞海海洋污染卓越研究中心，海洋環境研究及創新科技中心將領導東亞海地區海洋環境及資源保護、持續使用及管理工作；同時向當地政府及組織提供關於海洋環境問題的專家意見及培訓。

城大在海洋環境研究領域的能力取得多方面肯定，最近更獲大學教育資助委員會撥款810萬港元特別設備補助金，用於設立亞洲區首個環境蛋白體學及代謝學實驗室。

近年來，世界各地的研究員開始摒棄用量度海水污染物濃度評估海洋污染程度的做法，改用生物指標監察海洋生態健康情況。採用量化海洋生物因環境狀況及污染程度改變而產生的生物化學及分子反應，更易評估特定污染物對海洋生態帶來的危害及影響。

新引進的實驗設備將大大有助觀察及分析生物化學及分子反應，特別是海洋生物受污染影響後其基因組產生蛋白的變化，最終提供更可靠及經濟有效的方法，研究環境轉變的長遠影響。

研究項目由胡教授領導，成員包括城大生物及化學系林群聲講座教授、副教授林漢華博士及江潤章博士，及助理教授林潤華博士。

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The Centre for Marine Environmental Research and Innovative Technology (MERIT), led by City University of Hong Kong (CityU), has been designated by a United Nations body as the first Regional Centre of Excellence in Marine Pollution, underpinning its leadership position in the field of marine pollution research, monitoring, assessment and management.

The designation was awarded, for the first time, by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), under the United Nations Development Programme, and officially endorsed by its 11 national partners, including China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia, and 16 non-national partners.

It recognised the leadership of MERIT in marine environmental research, the distinctive contribution and relevance of its work in the East Asian Seas (EAS) region and its continuous commitment to contributing to the sustainable development in the EAS region.

Professor (Chair) Rudolf Wu Shiu-sun, from the Department of Biology and Chemistry of CityU and Director of MERIT, said this recognition was a testimony to the excellence of their research as well as their high application values.

"We are pleased that our research efforts over the years have been able to assist governments from the EAS region and around the world to address the issue of marine pollution and better manage our environment. This very prestigious designation serves as an unequivocal example to demonstrate CityU's mission to create applicable knowledge for the benefit of society," Professor Wu said.

As the Regional Centre of Excellence, MERIT will play a leading role in the protection, sustainable utilisation and management of marine resources and environment in the EAS region, while at the same time providing expert advice and training to governments and organisations in the region on marine environmental issues.

At the same time, MERIT has received an $8.1 million one-off special equipment grant from the University Grants Committee for the establishment of an Environmental Proteomics & Metabolomics Laboratory: the first of its kind in Asia. The grant will further boost the marine environment research capabilities of CityU.

In recent years, there has been a worldwide trend towards using bio-indicators to monitor the health of marine ecosystem instead of measuring the concentration of pollutants in the environment. By quantifying specific biochemical and molecular responses of marine organisms to changes in environmental conditions and pollution levels, the risk and impact of certain pollutants on the marine ecosystem can be more easily assessed.

The new laboratory facilities acquired through the grant will greatly facilitate the analysis of such biochemical and molecular responses, in particular changes in protein levels in marine organism genomes. This will ultimately provide a more reliable and economical way of studying the long-term impact of environmental changes.

The project will be led by Professor Wu and his team members include Chair Professor Paul Lam Kwan-sing, Associate Professors Dr Michael Lam Hon-wah and Dr Richard Kong Yuen-chong, and Assistant Professor Dr Lam Yun-wah, from the Department of Biology and Chemistry.

Other media coverage :

Newspapers

14-10-2008	*Ta Kung Pao*《大公報》
18-10-2008	*South China Morning Post*《南華早報》
29-10-2008	*Young Post, South China Morning Post*《南華早報 Young Post》