

3rd International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology 2007

August 5-9, 2007, Houston, Texas, USA

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I was recently lucky enough to attend the 3rd international conference on Environmental Science and Technology 2007 which are annually organised by American Academy of Sciences. This four day conference was packed with 15 major platform sessions, two poster sessions and four registration exhibitions; those covered the most popular research areas and frontiers in environmental area.

The opening lecture named “Beyond Fossil Fuels: Converting Wind At Sea to Low-cost Green Electricity with Cost-Effective Floating Wind farms” was given by Yih-Ho Michael Pao. The low-cost vertical axis wind turbines were mounted on submerged floating platforms to anchor to the sea floor (Floating-VAWTs). Such these low-cost wind turbines can be placed in strong wind regions at sea to generate more electricity per wind turbine. This, when fully implemented, will greatly reduce the global energy, air pollution and climate change problems. Like other audience, I was greatly impressed by the new style turbine, floating platforms and its big future even though wind power station is not into my current interested research area.

My oral presentation was scheduled on Tuesday afternoon, 03-03 In Situ Remediation. There was a short talk with Professor ZhaoLin (Tianjin University, China) before that session started. We exchanged our comments on the PRB technology and its future in China. I learned a lot about the PRB development progress in China and realised that the funding is still a major problem. Anyway, more and more people have known the high efficiency of PRB on contaminants removal from contaminated field. My presentation drew some people’s attention and had received some helpful feedback. Dr Fayaz Lakhawala from Adventus offered us some real core samples from PRB sites to test for porosity change using image analysis and wants more discussion about the funding. A French guy from Laboratory of Physical Chemistry and Microbiology for the Environment, Nancy, France, was very interested into our work as he is treating the organic species in soil with iron. Dr Jesus Paniagua-Michel asked if we have published our paper, if yes, referring it to him at the first time as he is going to do some porosity change in the near future.

The other two parts of this conference were poster session and registration exhibits. The poster session after dinner every night is another good chance to talk to others who are in my field or whose project was interested me. The meeting gave me the opportunity to see what other people are doing and trace some interesting questions. Registration exhibits were scheduled between platform sessions. I met Joanna Moreno from ADVENTUS, she referred me some guy's name who is working in PRB area. The conferences proved invaluable experiences for me. It was widened my sight not only in the area of my PhD but also in the whole environmental research and industry area.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me, School of Bioscience, Geochemistry Society Group, and Graduate School. I would like to say thanks Dr(s) Mooney and Bailey for their support, supervision and enouncement in the last two and half years. Also I want to thank Dr Liz Bailey for running my columns and Mr Brian Atkinson for impregnation when I was away for this conference.