

ICOBTE & ICHMET 2025

Catalyzing Change for Sustainability and ESG:
Bridging Academia and Industry

22nd - 26th September 2025
BEXCO, Busan, Korea



ICOBTE & ICHMET 2025 CONFERENCE

Event	ICOBTE & ICHMET 2025 Conference
Theme	Catalyzing Change for Sustainability and ESG: Bridging Academia and Industry
Date	September 22 nd - September 26 th , 2025
Country	Korea
Venue	BEXCO, Busan
Organizer	International Society of Trace Element Biogeochemistry (ISTEB)
Co-organizers	- International ESG Association(IESGA) - Korea University ESG Research Institute - Korea Biochar Research Center

This is the joint conference of the 17th International Conference of Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements (ICOBTE) and the 22nd International Conference of Heavy Metals (ICHMET). The two societies have merged and formed the new International Society of Trace Elements in the Environment (ISTEE).



International
ESG
Association



ESG 연구원
ESG Research Institute



KBRC Korea Biochar
Research Center

IMPORTANT DATES

21 st March 2025	31 st March 2025	31 st March 2025
Early Bird Registration Deadline	Regular Registration Deadline	Abstract Submission Deadline

CHAIRS OF THE CONFERENCE



Prof. Yong Sik Ok
- Korea University HCR Professor
- President, International Society of Trace Element Biogeochemistry (ISTEB)
- President, International ESG Association (IESGA)



Prof. Jörg Rinklebe
- University of Wuppertal, Germany
- Former President, International Society of Trace Element Biogeochemistry (ISTEB)



Prof. Filip Tack
- Ghent University, Belgium
- Former President, International Conference on Heavy Metals (ICHMET)

PLENARY SPEAKERS



Prof. Jim Ippolito
The Ohio State University, Unites States



Prof. Yong-Guan Zhu
Chinese Academy of Science, China



Prof. Jon Blundy
University of Oxford, United Kingdom



Prof. Longbin Huang
University of Queensland, Australia



Prof. Daniel C. W. Tsang
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Hong Kong, China



Prof. Scott Fendorf
Stanford University, Unites States



Prof. Wonyong Choi
Korea Institute of Energy Technology, Korea



Prof. Scott Chang
University of Alberta, Canada



Prof. Xinde Cao
Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

REGULAR SESSIONS

- Human Health and Trace Elements
 - Food and Trace Elements
 - Water and Trace Elements
 - Plants and Trace Elements
 - Other Topics related to Trace Elements
- Analytical and Experimental Methods
 - Organisms and Trace Elements
 - Soils / Sediments and Trace Elements
 - Microorganisms and Trace Elements
 - Trace Elements and Sustainability

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

Symposium Title		Chair	Co-Chairs
1	Agricultural Amendments: Implications for Sustainable Management and Environmental Quality	Scott Chang (University of Alberta, Canada)	Jianming Xu (Zhejiang University, China) Nanthi Bolan(University of Western Australia, Australia)
2	Balancing Trace Elements in the Environmental-Food Chain Continuum	Filip Tack (Ghent University, Belgium)	Erik Smolders (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Fang-Jie Zhao (Nanjing Agricultural University, China) Gijs Du Laing (Ghent University, Belgium)
3	Mineral Weathering and Metal(loid) Biogeochemistry: from Agricultural Land to Mining Pollution Management	Binoy Sarkar (University of South Australia, Australia) Longbin Huang (University of Queensland, Australia)	Narottam Saha (The University of Queensland, Australia) Fang You (The University of Queensland, Australia) Zhang Lin (Central South University, China)
4	Integrating Clean Energy and Waste Valorization: Pathways to Recover Critical Minerals and Metals for Sustainable Development	Daniel Alessi (The University of Texas at Austin, United States)	Janice P. L. Kenney (Laurentian University, Canada)
5	Trace Elements in Anaerobic Digestion	Wei Qiao (China Agricultural University, China)	Lee Yu-young (Tohoku University, Japan)
6	Functionalized Biochar for the Management of Heavy Metal Biogeochemistry	Hailong Wang (Foshan University, China)	Jim Ippolito (The Ohio State University, United States) Jörg Rinklebe (University of Wuppertal, Germany) Xing Yang (Hainan University, China)
7	Biochar from Biomass and Waste	Yong Sik Ok (Korea University, Korea)	Sanjai Parikh (University of California, Davis, United States) Ondrej Masek (University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom) Chao He (Tampere University, Finland) Wang Chi-Hwa (National University of Singapore, Singapore) Hailong Wang (Foshan University, China)
8	Pollution Control and Resource Utilization of Heavy Metals-Contaminated Biomass	Shicheng Zhang (Fudan University, China)	Rongliang Qiu (South China Agricultural University, China) Bing Deng (Tsinghua University, China)
9	Advances in Mercury Biogeochemistry and Trophic Transfer Research in Support of the Minamata Convention	Michael S. Bank (Institute of Marine Research, Norway)	Xinbin Feng (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China)
10	Mercury in the Environment	Jörg Rinklebe (University of Wuppertal, Germany)	Xinbin Feng (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China) Jianxu Wang (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China) Michael S. Bank (Institute of Marine Research, Norway) Jerry Lin (Lamar University, United States)
11	Human and Environmental Health Impacts of Heavy Metal Pollution	Yong Sik Ok (Korea University, Korea) Janelle Thompson (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)	Wang Xianfeng (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
12	Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements in Wetlands	Jörg Rinklebe (University of Wuppertal, Germany) Sabry M Shaheen (Kafrelsheikh University, Egypt)	
13	Metal Stable Isotopes: New Insights into Ecosystems, Human Health, and Climate	Zoyne Pedrero Zayas (University of Pau, France)	Yiou Zhu (Institute of Marine Research, Norway) Zhengcheng Song (Nanjing University, China) Sae Yun Kwon (Postech University of Science and Technology, Korea)
14	Optimizing Critical Element Resources and Environmental Health: The Case of the Critical Elements Antimony, Gallium, Germanium, Indium, and Tellurium	Montserrat Filella (University of Geneva, Switzerland)	Jose Luis Cortina (Barcelona TECH UPC, Spain) Ishai Dror (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel) Teba Gil-Diaz (Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, Germany) Juraj Majzlan (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany) Mengchan He (Beijing Normal University, China) Sarah Jane O. White (U.S. Geological Survey, United States) Susan C Wilson (University of New England, Australia)
15	Novel Approaches for Improving Soil Health and Remediation	Michael Komárek (Czech University of Life Sciences, The Czech Republic)	Juan Antrlo (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain) Ivan Carabante (Luleå University of Technology, Sweden) Diego Baragaño (Universidad de Cantabria, Spain)
16	Heavy Metal Pollution: Risk Assessment and Remediation	Meththika Vithanage (University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka)	Xiaokai Zhang (Jiangnan Univeristy, China) Williamson Gustave (University of the Bahamas, Bahamas) Woo Hyoung Lee (University of Central Florida Associate Professor, United States)
17	Phytoremediation of Trace Elements in Soils as a Sustainable Green Tool: Potential, Status,Problems, Solutions, and Prospects	The late Irena Twardowska (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)	Shuhe Wei (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China) Huiping Dai (Shaanxi University of Technology, China)
18	Successes and Failures in Trace/Heavy Metal Contaminated Land Reclamation	Jim Ippolito (The Ohio State University, United States)	Nick Basta (The Ohio State University, United States) Ganga M. Hettiarachchi (Kansas State University, United States)

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

Symposium Title		Chair	Co-Chairs
19	Impact of Climate Change on Metal Contamination and Remediation in Aquatic Environments	Anna Sophia Knox (Savannah River National Laboratory, United States)	Filip M. G. Tack (Ghent University, Belgium) Agnieszka Baran (University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland)
20	Explore the Potential of Critical Elements in PFAS Remediation	Zongsu Wei (Aarhus University, Denmark)	Hui Lin (Dongguan University of Technology, China) Jörg Rinklebe (University of Wuppertal, Germany) Jörg Feldmann (University of Graz, Austria)
21	Micro(nano)plastics in the Environment	Carol S.K. Lin (City University of Hong Kong, China)	SungYeon Hwang (Kyung Hee University, Korea)
22	The 3rd International Forum on Plastic and Sustainability	Yong Sik Ok (Korea University, Korea) Xiangzhou Yuan (Southeast University, China)	Michael Bank (Institute of Marine Research, Norway) Dan Tsang (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China) Patryk Oleszczuk (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland) Meththika Vithanage (University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka) SungYeon Hwang (Kyung Hee University, Korea) Baojun Yi (Huazhong Agricultural University, China) Xiaoguang Duan (The University of Adelaide, Australia)
23	Advanced Nano- and Carbon-based Materials for Efficient Trace Metal Remediation in Environmental Systems (soil, waste and water)	Patryk Oleszczuk (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland)	
24	Environmental Effects of Trace Elements: Integrating In Silico, In Vitro, High-Throughput, and High-Content Approaches	Claudia Cosio (Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France)	Vera Slaveykova (Université de Genève, Switzerland)
25	Advancing Towards a Sustainable Future: Principles and Technologies for Circular Economy and Real-World Applications	Chungheon Shin (Stanford University, United States)	Amy Tan (City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China)
26	Innovative Approaches to Environmental Quality Monitoring and Management: Special Focus on SDGs and Priority Pollutants	Xiangzhou Yuan (Southeast University, China)	Sabry M Shaheen (Kafrelsheikh University, Egypt) Xing Yang (Hainan University, China) Xiao Yang (Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research CAS, China) Shengsen Wang (Yangzhou University, China)
27	Machine Learning Applications in Tackling Trace Elements Challenges	Chongchong Qi (Central South University, Changsha, China)	Qiusong Chen (Central South University, China) Ping Zhang (University of Macau, China) Yan Shi (Central South University, China)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Prof. **Michael Komárek**
Czech University of Life Sciences,
Republic of Czech



Prof. **Shicheng Zhang**
Fudan University, China



Prof. **Yoo Ga-young**
Kyunghee University, Korea



Prof. **Prof. Zongsu Wei**
Aarhus University, Denmark



Prof. **Michel Mench**
University of Bordeaux, France



Prof. **Xiao Yang**
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing,
China



Prof. **Woo Hyung Lee**
University of Central Florida
Associate Professor, Unites States



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Hebei University of Technology, China



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The University of Adelaide,
Australia



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Chinese Academy of Sciences, China



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National Taiwan University, Taiwan



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Prof. China Agricultural University,
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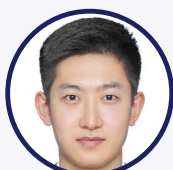
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Wuppertal University, Germany



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Southeast University, Nanjing, China

SPECIAL SESSION CHAIRS

Heavy Metal Pollution: Risk Assessment and Remediation



Prof. **Meththika Vithanage**
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

Pollution Control and Resource Utilization of Heavy Metals-Contaminated Biomass



Prof. **Shicheng Zhang**
Fudan University, China

Micro(nano)plastics in the environments



Prof. **Carol S.K. Lin**
City University of Hong Kong, China

Functionalized Biochar for the Management of Heavy Metal Biogeochemistry



Prof. **Hailong Wang**
Foshan University, China

Machine Learning Applications in Tackling Trace Elements Challenges



Prof. **Chongchong Qi**
Central South University, Changsha, China

Novel Approaches for Improving Soil Health and Remediation



Prof. **Michael Komárek**
Czech University of Life Sciences, Republic of Czech

Balancing Trace Elements in the Environmental-Food Chain Continuum



Prof. **Filip Tack**
Ghent University, Belgium

Trace Elements in Anaerobic Digestion



Prof. **Wei Qiao**
China Agricultural University, China

Successes and Failures in Trace/Heavy Metal Contaminated Land Reclamation



Prof. **Jim Ippolito**
The Ohio State University, Unites States

Integrating Clean Energy and Waste Valorization: Pathways to Recover Critical Minerals and Metals for Sustainable Development



Prof. **Daniel Alessi**
University of Alberta, Canada

SPECIAL SESSION CHAIRS

Advances in Mercury Biogeochemistry and Trophic Transfer Research in Support of the Minamata Convention



Prof. **Michael S. Bank**
Institute of Marine Research, Norway

Optimizing Critical Element Resources and Environmental Health: The Case of the Critical Elements Antimony, Gallium, Germanium, Indium, and Tellurium



Prof. **Montserrat Filella**
University of Geneva, Switzerland

Environmental Effects of Trace Elements: Integrating In Silico, In Vitro, High-Throughput, and High-Content Approaches



Prof. **Claudia Cosio**
University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France

Agricultural Amendments: Implications for Sustainable Management and Environmental Quality



Prof. **Scott Chang**
University of Alberta, Canada

Explore the potential of critical elements in PFAS remediation



Prof. **Zongsu Wei**
Aarhus University, Denmark

Impact of Climate Change on Metal Contamination and Remediation in Aquatic Environments



Prof. **Anna Sophia Knox**
Savannah River National Laboratory, Unites States

Advancing Towards a Sustainable Future: Principles and Technologies for Circular Economy and Real-World Applications



Dr. **Chungheon Shin**
Stanford University, Unites States

Advanced Nano- and Carbon-based Materials for Efficient Trace Metal Remediation in Environmental Systems (soil, waste and water)



Prof. **Patryk Oleszczuk**
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland

Phytoremediation of Trace Elements in Soils as a Sustainable Green Tool: Potential, Status, Problems, Solutions and Prospects



The late Prof. **Irena Twardowska**
Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Human and Environmental Health Impacts of Heavy Metal Pollution



Prof. **Janelle Thompson**
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

SPECIAL SESSION CHAIRS

Mineral Weathering and Metal(loid) Biogeochemistry: from Agricultural Land to Mining Pollution Management



Prof. **Longbin Huang**
The University of Queensland, Australia

Mineral Weathering and Metal(loid) Biogeochemistry: from Agricultural Land to Mining Pollution Management



Dr. **Binoy Sarkar**
University of South Australia, Australia

- Mercury in the Environment
- Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements in Wetlands



Prof. **Jörg Rinklebe**
University of Wuppertal, Germany

- Innovative Approaches to Environmental Quality Monitoring and Management, with Special Focus on SDGs and Priority Pollutants
- The 3rd International Forum on Plastic and Sustainability



Prof. **Xiangzhou Yuan**
Southeast University, China

Metal Stable Isotopes: New Insights into Ecosystems, Human Health, and Climate



Prof. **Zoyne Pedrero Zayas**
University of Pau, France

Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements in the wetlands



Prof. **Sabry M. Shaheen**
Kafrelsheikh University, Egypt / Wuppertal University, Germany

- Biochar from Biomass and Waste
- The 3rd International Forum on Plastic and Sustainability
- Human and Environmental Health Impacts of Heavy Metal Pollution



Prof. **Yong Sik Ok**
Korea University, Korea

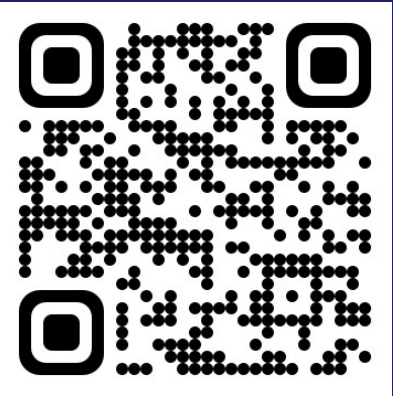
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