



# NEWSLETTER

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## EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT

*An immersive experience in the world of research.*

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Group photos at European researchers' night

Several ERS and ER from UNITO team participated at the European Researchers' Night, held on 27 and 28 September 2024 in Turin, in collaboration with the IN2AQUAS research group. It was an immersive experience in the world of research, with the aim of encouraging active participation in the research process to improve its impact on our daily lives and respond together to the important future challenges that concern our health and that of the planet.

Among the topics addressed, 'Clean Waters' is certainly one of the most relevant, as climate change caused by man is seriously endangering the oceans and waters and, consequently, our societies. The aim of the research is to protect the oceans, restore the ecosystems of seas and rivers, prevent and eliminate pollution by reducing plastic waste, nutrient losses and the use of chemical pesticides. The SusWater project team has addressed this issue by offering the public interactive games, debates and readings.

# DSS MEETING-BANGKOK



Photos at Department of Science Services

Researchers seconded from UNITO to DSS presented their research in the seminar “Sustainable integrated approach to achieve CECs and PTEs removal from contaminated waters. The aquaculture as case study” was held on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 in Bangkok (Thailand), in the Department of Science Services.

The DSS-UNITO seminar focused on a sustainable and integrated approach to removing contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) and potentially toxic elements (PTEs) from polluted waters, with a particular emphasis on aquaculture as a case study. The event began with registration and introductory remarks, followed by a welcome speech from the DSS Director General and a group photo.

The main session featured presentations by experts from UNITO, covering topics such as pollutant detection and removal techniques, mass spectrometry for identifying high-concern contaminants, hybrid materials for adsorption, and the use of membranes in addressing aquaculture pollution.



Seminar at DSS

On the 8 of April, UNITO team and DSS presented the project and their research activities at CMIT- College of Materials Innovation and Technology.



Group photos at CMIT

# ESR EXPERIENCES

## Episode 7 - Federico Cristaudo

### Secondment in Thailand: “A Unique Professional and Cultural Experience”

I joined the SusWater project as an Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) at the University of Turin (UNITO) in the spring of 2024, right after completing my master's degree. The opportunity to participate in this innovative project has allowed me to broaden my academic and professional horizons, especially through the secondment programs. One such enriching experience was my recent secondment at the Department of Science Service (DSS) in Bangkok, Thailand. Upon my arrival, I was warmly welcomed by the DSS research team. The first few days were an immersion into Thai culture, during which I quickly learned to navigate the vibrant city of Bangkok, enjoy its incredible street food, and adapt to its warm and humid climate. These initial moments helped me



Sampling

acclimatize and set the tone for a rewarding experience. At DSS, my research focused on understanding the distribution of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) between water and sediments in aquaculture environments. Specifically, we aimed to determine the bioavailability and biodisponibility of these contaminants to benthic and aquatic species in aquaculture matrices.

Thanks to the collaboration with local researchers and the access to advanced analytical tools, I was able to explore innovative methodologies for assessing water contamination. One of the highlights was the fieldwork at aquaculture sites, where we collected water samples for on-site and laboratory analysis. These activities demonstrated the real-world applications of our research and strengthened my understanding of the complexities of aquaculture systems. Outside the lab, I took full advantage of my time in Bangkok to explore its rich cultural heritage. From the breathtaking temples to the bustling Chatuchak Market, every experience added depth to my understanding of Thai traditions and values. This secondment reaffirmed the importance of international collaboration in addressing global challenges like water contamination. The hospitality and professionalism of the DSS team, combined with the insights gained during this period, have been invaluable to my academic and personal growth. I look forward to applying these experiences to my future research and fostering further collaborations within the SusWater network.

## Episode 8 - Jingbo Ni

My experience as a visiting researcher at Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan began in February 2024. However, my connection with the university dates back to the summer of six years ago when Professor Teruhisa Ohno, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, came as a guest speaker. His brilliant research and vibrant personality immediately captivated me, leaving a lasting impression. Therefore, being able to participate in Professor Ohno's research team through this opportunity and receive his guidance in photocatalysis research is truly exciting beyond words. I am deeply grateful for his thoughtful guidance and care.

The cities I've encountered in Japan, such as Fukuoka, where the university is located, are lively yet preserve many ancient buildings. There are numerous transportation options, but if one can't read the signs, it's easy to get lost in stations that resemble the labyrinth of the Minotaur. Most restaurants are reliable, especially those small, unassuming ones run by elderly owners. Of course, it's wise to have cash ready, otherwise, you'll have to sigh at the delicious food but be unable to indulge. Although the cultural exchange between China and Japan can be traced back to the 7th century, I still felt the impact of cultural differences. For instance, local government employees at the service desk always bowed as they bid farewell to ordinary citizens. People working in service industries have a humble attitude, even kneeling to serve customers. Moreover, I greatly admire the Japanese people's strict adherence to established rules. Their dedication and seriousness moved me deeply, and I believe this is a crucial quality for researchers in their scientific endeavors.

In conclusion, this visiting experience in Japan not only broadened my research scope but also allowed me to experience diverse cultures and worldviews.

I strongly recommend that researchers' active participation in international affairs, working and exchanging ideas with scholars from around the world, will become an unforgettable memory for life.

Mr. Jingbo Ni conducts research on the photocatalytic applications of two-dimensional materials at Aalborg University. He holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering and a master's degree in Materials Engineering.



Around the city