



# Green Catalysis Lab YEARBOOK

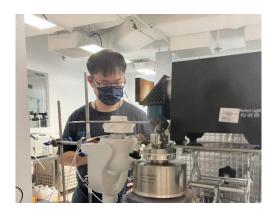


# National University of Singapore Yan Group



# CONTENTS









Editorial team Chen Chen Dong Yuning Wang Tie Yuan Dongxu Overview

03

11

12

16

19

05 Research Facilities

**07** Research Outcomes

**10** Collaborations

Awards

Alumni Updates

Milestones

Group Activities



# **OVERVIEW**





### **Prof. Yan Ning**

He received his B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Chemistry from Peking University, working with Prof. Kou Yuan from 2000 to 2009. After a Marie Curie Fellowship at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland with Prof. Paul Dyson, he joined National University of Singapore in 2012 and set up the Green Catalysis Lab. He was promoted to tenured associate professor in 2018. His group focuses on the catalytic transformation of renewable resources and heterogeneous catalysis.

Among the awards he received are the inaugural "Green Chemistry for Life" Young Scholar Award from UNESCO in 2014, the inaugural G2C2 Young Research Award from Global Green Chemistry Center Network in 2015, "Energy, Environment and Sustainability Early Career Award" from Royal Society of Chemistry in 2017, "Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering Lectureship Award" from American Chemistry Society in 2018, "Young Researcher Award" from NUS in 2019, and "NRF Investigatorship" from the Singapore Government in 2021. He is or was part of the editorial team of numerous international journals, such as ACS Catalysis, ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering, Catalytic Science & Technology and Molecular Catalysis.

### **New members**

#### PhD students



#### Chen Chen

 Anhui Province, China
 Shanghai Jiao Tong University(MEng)
 e0974093@u.nus.edu



#### Wang Tie

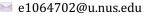
- ▲ Beijing, China
  ◆ Peking University(BSc)
- 🖬 e0974123@u.nus.edu





#### Fang Xiao

Zhejiang Province, China
Xiamen University(BEng)





#### Li Yiyang

- 🏠 Shanxi Province, China
- Beijing University of Chemical Technology(BEng)
- 📔 e1061920@u.nus.edu

- Dong Yuning
  - Heilongjiang Province, China
  - ବ Tianjin University(BEng)
  - 📨 e0974187@u.nus.edu

#### Yuan Dongxu

- 🏠 Jilin Province, China
- Tianjin University & Zhejiang University(BEng & MEng)
- 🖂 e0974185@u.nus.edu

#### **MEng students**



#### Ran Chongshihan

- 🏠 Hubei Province,China
- 🕈 Beijing University of
- Chemical Technology(BEng) ≥ e0978076@u.nus.edu



#### Zhang Yifan

- Inner Mongolia Province, China
- Beijing University of Chemical Technology(BEng)
- 📔 e0977919@u.nus.edu



#### Kyungho Lee Research Fellow

**Departing members** 

- Seoul, South Korea
- ★ KAIST (BSc & PhD)
- ➡ cheleek@nus.edu.sg
- 1/2020-05/2022



#### Pham Thuy Trang

- Research Fellow
- 🟠 Ho Chi Ming City, Vietnam
- Auckland University(PhD)
  - Kangwon National University(MSc)
- chettp@nus.edu.sg
- 01/2021-04/2022



REEN Atalysis

#### Ren Tianyu

- Exchange PhD Student
- 🏠 Guizhou Province, China
- Tianjin University(BSc & MSc)
- e0675776@u.nus.edu
- 01/2021-01/2022

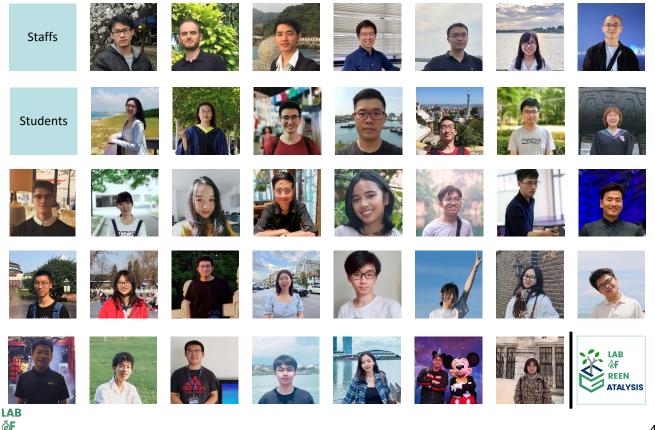


Best Wishes to

you all!

### **Current members**

Our group currently has 6 post-doctoral research fellows, 1 Research Engineer, 24 PhD candidates, and 6 Master students.



# **RESEARCH FACILITIES**



laboratory is well-equipped for catalyst The preparation, characterisation and testing.





E8-05-21

Catalyst preparation equipment include catalyst synthesis robot, centrifuges, freeze dryers, ovens and ball mills while catalyst characterisation equipment include temperature-programmed reduction (TPR) and desorption (TPD) set-ups, and in situ FTIR spectrometer.





Catalyst synthesis robot



4-channel reactor



Offline GC

REEN TALYSIS



**Online GC** 



High-pressure flow reactor



HPLC





Ball mill

In situ FTIR spectrometer

Catalyst testing equipment consist of 2 sets of fixed-bed reactors and several batch reactors while product analysis include 2 equipment online gas chromatographs, an offline GC and 2 high-performance liquid chromatograph (with RID and UV detectors).





Microwave reactor

Microwave reactor delivers excellent trace analysis results, hence being a powerful yet precise tool for extraction, digestion and synthesis.

### **New equipment**

# Our lab has acquired several new pieces of equipment during 2022, which will unlock more research potential.



Chemisorption Analyzer

The chemisorption analyzer can be used for the characterization of catalyst surfaces. The built-in TCD enables it to perform TPR/TPD/TPO and pulse chemisorption analyses. We can know our catalyst surfaces a lot better!



Mass Spectroscopy (MS)

MS is configured for continuous analysis of gases and vapors at near atmospheric pressures. It provides improved resolution and abundance sensitivity with an ultimate detection limit of 5 ppb subject to spectral interference.



High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)



Glove box

Our lab adopted a more advanced HPLC, promising better separations and analyses. We also purchased a new advanced glove box. More catalysts and materials are going to be born in this glove box!



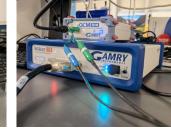


We acquired a 2channel fixed-bed reactor for hightemperature and highpressure reactions, for N<sub>2</sub> activation and Ncompounds synthesis

2-channel reactor







Electrochemical workstation



Circular dichroism (CD) spectrometer

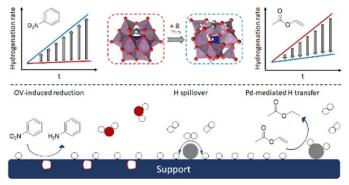
The CD spectrometer is equipped for the study of chirality compounds. Providing information of structures and configurations of chiral substrates, the CD spectrometer will benefit our projects in biomass conversion, which involve the use of chiral compounds and chiral catalysts.

Our lab currently has 3 electrochemical workstations and we will purchase another one in 2023. As a full-featured potentiostat, it is capable of performing all electrochemical techniques, including electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS), providing our lab with more high-quality electrochemical tests.

# **RESEARCH OUTCOMES**



### **Catalyst design**



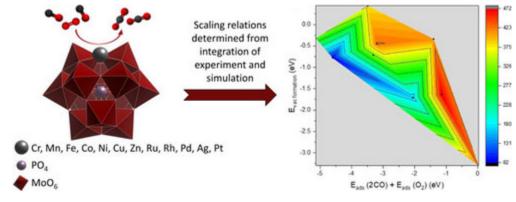
#### Graphical Abstract for Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. paper.

This year, we continued to achieve impactful results in catalyst design. First, we investigated hydrogen spillover with a solubilized polyoxometalatesupported single-atom catalyst. We performed kinetics, spectroscopy, spectrometry studies, and DFT calculations. Our results revealed that hydrogen spillover is an autocatalytic process and can be either detrimental or beneficial for catalysis, the direction and magnitude of which depends mostly on the nature of the reducible functional group (Angewandte Chemie International Edition). Then, we and our collaborators used continuous flow chemistry to realize the ultra-high activity with molybdenum disulfide supported platinum singleatom catalysts, and this catalyst exhibits excellent anti-leaching property (Nature Communication). Finally, we developed a Pd atom-promoted ZnZrO<sub>x</sub> solid-solution catalyst, which exhibited superior activity and stability.

REEN ATALYSIS

#### **Representative Publications**

- M. Hülsey *et al.* <u>Hydrogen Spillover and Its</u> <u>Relation to Hydrogenation: Observations on</u> <u>Structurally Defined Single-Atom Sites</u>. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, **2022**, e202208237 (Back cover article)
- Z. Chen *et al.* <u>Addressing the Quantitative</u> <u>Conversion Bottleneck in Single-Atom</u> <u>Catalysis</u>. *Nature Communication*, **2022**, *13*, 2807.
- M. Hülsey *et al.* <u>Identifying Key Descriptors</u> <u>for the Single-atom Catalyzed CO Oxidation</u>. *CCS Chemistry*, **2022**, *4*, 3296-3308.
- H. Yan et al. <u>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> Coordinated Robust Single-</u> <u>Atom Platinum Catalyst for Selective Polyol</u> <u>Oxidation</u>. Angewandte Chemie International Edition, **2022**, e202116059

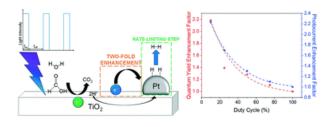


### **Dynamic catalysis**

In 2022, we kept our pace in dynamic catalysis, a relatively new field, and achieve some important milestones. We loaded different noble metals on  $TiO_2$  support and tested their photocatalytic performance towards formic acid decomposition reaction under constant and periodic illumination. We found that under moderate frequency, periodic light could increase the activity by more than 2-fold, regardless of metal types. With a series of photoelectrochemical characterizations, we proved that periodic illumination mainly contributes to

#### Representative Publications

 S. S. Wong et al. <u>Quantum Yield Enhancement</u> in Photocatalytic HCOOH Decomposition to H<sub>2</sub> <u>under Periodic Illumination</u>. *Catalysis Science* & Technology, **2022**, 12, 5217-5228.



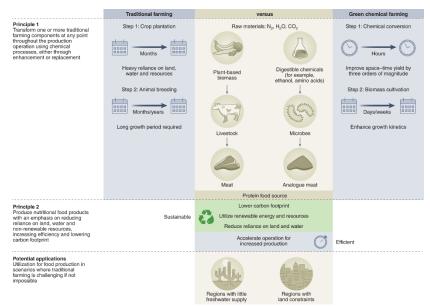
promoting electron transfer to noble metal Graphical Abstract for *Catalysis Science & Technology* paper. nanoparticles. New dynamic catalysis projects are also ongoing, stay tuned!

#### **Green energy**

This year, we have made gratifying progress in  $CO_2$ conversion, including the prospect of using  $CO_2$ feedstock for food production in the "Nature Sustainability" demonstrating "chemical farming". Our Pd atom-promoted ZnZrO<sub>x</sub> solid solution catalysts also has a high activity towards  $CO_2$ hydrogenation to methanol. In addition, our ammonia decomposition research is also in a good pace. More exciting results are on their way in the new year!

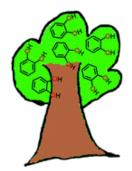
#### **Representative Publications**

- N. Yan *et al.* <u>Pathways to food from CO<sub>2</sub> via</u> <u>green chemical farming</u>. *Nature Sustainability*, **2022**, DOI: 10.1038/s41893-022-00906-8.
- K. Lee et al. <u>Atomic Pd-promoted</u> <u>ZnZrO<sub>x</sub> solid solution catalyst for</u> <u>CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation to methanol</u>. *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental*, **2022**, 304, 120994.





### **Preparation of Renewable Nitrogen-Containing Compounds**



H<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and Pd/C One pot conversion

Renewable feedstock High purity product Easy separation

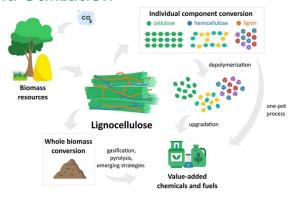


#### Graphical Abstract for Green Chem. paper.

This year, the fruits of our biomass team's work have finally landed, including our collaboration work with Prof. Zhou Kang to produce L-tyrosine from bagasse (Biomaterials) and collaboration work with Prof. Qi Wei to prepare phenazine from lignin-derived catechol (Green Chemistry). More exciting projects are on the way, stay tuned!

#### **Representative Publications**

- V. Fung *et al.* <u>Producing aromatic amino acid</u> from corn husk by using polyols as <u>intermediates</u>. *Biomaterials*, **2022**, *287*, 121661.
- T. Ren *et al.* <u>One-pot production of phenazine</u> <u>from lignin-derived catechol</u>. *Green Chemistry*, **2022**, *24*, 1224-1230.



#### Graphical Abstract for Green Energy Environ. paper.

This year, based on our previous works in biomass conversion, we expanded our scope to waste plastic conversion, and achieved a series of success swiftly. In August, we published a comprehensive review providing a unified aspect of plastic conversion and biomass conversion pointing out the similarities of biomass and waste plastic conversion (Nat. Rev. Chem.). In October, we published a prospective on combined process of oxidation and biotransformation (Science). Aside from introduction of the work, we also gave further insight to the hybrid transformation of mixed waste plastics.

REEN ATALYSIS

#### **Representative Publications**

- N. Yan <u>Recycling plastic using a hybrid</u> process. Science, 2022, 378, 132-133.
- K. Lee *et al.* <u>A unified view on catalytic</u> <u>conversion of biomass and waste plastics</u>. *Nature Reviews Chemistry*, **2022**, *6*, 635-652.
- W. Deng et al. <u>Catalytic conversion of</u> <u>lignocellulosic biomass into chemicals and</u> <u>fuels</u>. Green Energy and Environment, **2022**, Accepted Manuscript

### Waste Refinery and Utilization

### **COLLABORATION**





- China: We have strengthened or established collaborations with Prof. Liu Haichao of Perking U, Prof. Li Jun of Tsinghua U, Professor Han Buxing of ICCAS, Professor Dai Yanjun of Shanghai Jiaotong U, Professor Wang Yanqin of East China U of Science and Technology, Prof. Feng Xiang's and Prof. Liu Yibin's team of China U of Petroleum, Prof. Qi Wei of Tianjin U, Prof. Wang Ye of Xiamen U, etc. After joining Shanghai Jiaotong U, Chen Xi has been transformed from a lab member to a collaborator.
- Japan: Cooperated with Prof. Shinya Furukawa and Prof. Hiroyuki Asakura on conducting XAS testing at Spring-8 and then visited the University of Hokkaido in October for research collaboration.
- **Norway:** Collaborated with Prof. Chen De on  $PO_4^{3-}$  coordinated robust single-atom platinum catalyst for selective polyol oxidation. The work was published in 2022 in *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*.
- **Switherland:** Co-authored an article on CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation reaction with Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez from ETH Zurich, which was publiched in *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental*. During his trip to Singapore, Prof. Pérez-Ramírez and his two lecturers had a great academic discussion with us.
- **Australia:** Cooperated with Prof. Wojciech Lipinski from the Australia National University on mesoporous silica-encaged ultrafine ceria–nickel hydroxide nanocatalysts for solar thermochemical dry methane reforming.
- **Tailand:** Collaborated with Prof. Chawalit Ngamcharussrivichai from Chulalongkorn University on propylsulfonic acid-functionalized mesostructured natural rubber/silica nanocomposites for alkyl levulinate synthesis.
- Spain: Co-authored a review on the perspective of molecular catalysis with Prof. Rafael Luque from the University of Cordoba.
- **Canada:** Mr. Lim Chia Wei, as our first PhD studentunder NUS-UT exchange program, finished the 4-month exchange at the University of Toronto, working with Prof. Ramin Farnood on the photocatalytic valorisation of waste biomass.







The NRF Investigatorship provides opportunities for established, innovative and active scientists and researchers, in their mid-career, to pursue groundbreaking, high-risk research. It is designed to support a small number of excellent Principal Investigators who have a track record of research achievements that identify them as leaders in their respective field(s) of research.

#### CLASS OF 2022



A/P YAN King National University of Singapore Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Research Title : Green Amines for a Sustainable Future Homepage : <u>https://greenenrgr.nus.edu.sp/our\_team/academic-</u> trat/futpasura/

### **NRF Investigatorship**

**Prof. Yan** was awarded the NRF Investigatorship, Class of 2022. It provides a S\$3 million research fund and is the highest award given to middle stage professors in Singapore. NRF aims to develop a strong science research and manpower base in Singapore.



# Yan, Ning \* Carriete Ladyots • milos cas • • Milos discues Research etito A.85 552 2023 • • Milos di Science Research etito A.86 552 2023 • • Milos di Science Research etito A.86 552 2023 • • Milos di Science Research etito A.86 552 2023 • • Milos di Science Research etito A.86 552 2023 • • Science Research etito A.86 552 2023 • • raingly class Science Rivers Research etito A.86 552 2023 • • raingly class Science Rivers Research etito In the field of cosseritors in the field of

**Highly Cited Researchers in 2022** 

**Prof. Yan** has been listed as a Highly Cited Researcher 2022 (Chemistry) by Clarivate, among 34 NUS researchers this year. This honor is in recognition of his outstanding and impactful scholarly accomplishments.



### Learning Innovation Fund - Technology (LIFT)

**Lim Chia Wei** has been awarded the LIFT grant, which supports his effort in developing an interactive learning software, named the ReactorDesign App, to encourage the self-directed learning of the subject of Reactor Design.



#### **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**

**Lim Chia Wei** won the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award of the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering. This award recognizes TAs for their positive contribution to student learning and sustained effort in class preparation

#### ®⊀#×# ₩NUS

2 <sup>nd</sup> NUS-TJU Phi 8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	D Online V Jan 2022	
	N. N.	We We We
		Contraction

7#**7**-82482

序号	分论坛	2019 级	2020 10
		学生姓名	学生姓名
1	光电子学 方向	9. 10 Zhang Qing	用食坊, Xiong Xincheng
2		争 杉 Xin Shan	张博斯 Zhang Boyi
3		清升级 Pu Geiging	ih 🖇 Xu Duo
4		米冊将 Song Jingting	序用? Zheng Haining
5		安告试 An Chambin	范仁社 Fan Reachen
6		89 19 Yang Hao	邓乐坚 Deag Lejian
7	有机化学 方向	道教厅 Pan Jisoting	信告4 Zou Gongfeng
8		於陶澍 Zhao Taoqian	星秋轩 Zhai Yirean
9		朱 景 Zhu Kun	青田町 Houng Qingqin
10	功能材料 方向	张维文 Zhang Harrows	老庁 新 San Gaangxin
11		憲法川 Pu Yunchuan	形 約 Deng Hao
12		林英王 Lin Yingzheng	④ Ji Mu Chrann
13		치 문 Lin Zhrang	刘思章 Lin Simi
14		程 伟 Cheng Wei	刘祥登 Lin Xinglong
15	储能段电 催化方向	金腾宇 An Tengyu	王 将 Wang Meng
16		之秋秋 Da Yamin	崔柏桥 Cai Bailea
17		春游天 Lu Haotian	史济纬 Shi Jiwei
18	爆化方向	林小玉 Han Xisoya	常会会 Chang Jington
19		百尺戌, Shi Ximpcheng	치 코 Lio Roi
20		王思信 Wang Sikai	月竹湖 Xiao Yiying

### **TJU–NUS Joint Institute awards**

Our PhD students under the TJU-NUS Joint Institute **Sikai Wang, Jinquan Chang, Rui Liu** and **Yiying Xiao** won the Best Research Report Awards at the second annual research workshop.



# **ALUMNI UPDATES**



Tweet



What's happening?

### 🐼 💷 🛱 🙂 🔂

**Tianyu Ren**— Research Fellow at GIEC, China

Exchange Ph. D.

Ren smoothly graduated from Tianjin University in mid-2022. Later, he got married to Dr. Wang Xiaofei (the smiling girl in the picture). 📚 🎨

Now he is working as a Research Fellow at the Guangzhou Institute of Energy Conversion (GIEC), continuing an interesting project on biomass utilization.



Gerald Har— Ph.D. at the University of Delaware Exchange Ph. D.

Dr. Har has successfully defended his doctoral thesis in Jul. 2022. Congratulations!

Also, he expects to return to Singapore and meet Prof. Yan and all lab members again. Hope to see you soon!



C

1J

**Bin Zhang**—Research Professor at First Affiliated Hospital of Shenzhen University

Research Fellow & Ph. D.

Dr. Zhang shared with us the good news that, in 2022, he led two projects that received grants from the National Key R&D Program of China (CNY 6.37 million) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

Dr. Dang Shanshan, the first Research Fellow in Dr. Zhang's team, has now joined the School of Chemical Engineering at Zhengzhou University.

Also, he reunited with Zhou Yu, Fang Jun, and Ding Shipeng in 2022 (all three are former members of our lab).



1J

 $\bigcirc$ 

\_↑\_

<sub>'</sub>↑,

 $\heartsuit$ 

⚠

**Kyungho Lee** – Senior Researcher at Korea Institute of Energy Research *Research Fellow* 

Kyungho shared with us many happy updates and joyful memories in 2022. He met with Prof. Yan and other outstanding professors in Korea on Aug 25, 2022.

Besides, he enjoyed a lot in the first summer break after the COVID-19 outbreak by travelling to Cebu, Philippines. Also, Kyungho spent a great time with his family in Japan in Nov. 2022, celebrating his mom's 60th birthday.



**Song Song**-Associate Professor at Tianjin University

#### Research Fellow

Dr. Song Song was promoted to Associate Professor at Tianjin University this year.

Another great progress for him in 2022: He was selected into "The 8th Young Elite Scientists Sponsorship Program" by China Association for Science and Technology.

 $\bigcirc$ 



 $\bigcirc$ 

1J

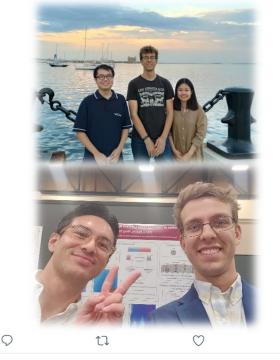
⚠

**Max Hülsey**-Research Fellow at MIT

#### Research Fellow & Ph D

Max and Huiying started their new life in Cambridge (US). Max has been a Research fellow at MIT since early 2022 while Huiying is a process engineer at a startup for electric vehicle batteries.

In Aug. 2022, they met Prof. Yan in Boston and took a reunion photo. Also, Max met Gabriel Patrón (a former exchange BSc student in our group) at a conference in Phoenix, Arizona.



Yu Zhou— Associate Professor at Nanjing University of Technology

#### Visiting Scholar

1J

Dr. Zhou was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, (NSFC, the National Science Fund for Excellent Young Scholars) in 2022. Also, he won the Jiangsu Provincial Outstanding Youth Fund.

 $\bigcirc$ 

13

<u>,</u>↑,

仚

Qiming Sun—Professor at the Soochow University

#### Research Fellow

Dr. Sun was successfully approved for the Young Scientist Project of the National Key R&D Program, and won the honor of "Gusu Innovation and Entrepreneurship Leading Talent". Heartfelt congratulations!

He was invited to give a keynote speech at the 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Molecular Sieve Academic Conference of the Chinese Chemical Society. Also, he will undertake the 2nd conference as the chairman.  $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{\cong}$ 

As a PI, his research group has enlarged to 11 students, and the new lab construction is almost complete.



**JUNG Ji Chul**—Professor at Myongji University, South Korea

Visiting Scholar

Jung and his family sent us best regards to all our lab members.

Both of his two children grew up fast, happily and healthily. The elder brother, Henry finished his study in primary school, while Oscar enjoys skiing.



# Jiaguang Zhang—Senior Lecturer at University of Lincoln

#### Research Fellow

In 2022, the biggest good news for Dr. Zhang was his promotion to Senior Lecturer at the University of Lincoln. Also, he has joined the Youth Editor board for Carbon Neutrality, and expressed his great appreciation for Prof. Yan's nomination.

Mengnan continues working on technology commercialization at Imperial College London and became the co-Founder and CEO of e-Carb Ltd together with Prof Magda Titirici and Prof James Clark. Also, both of their children made good progresses this year, and Eric has become a primary schooler.



Liu Yibin—Professor at China University of Petroleum, East China Visiting Scholar

 $\mathcal{O}$ 

仚

 $\bigcirc$ 

Dr. Liu's group launched a new highstandard laboratory in 2022. Together with Dr. Yan Hao, he published a paper in *Angew. Chem.* 

His two daughters have mastered swimming. One of them tried the roller coaster for the first time, and attended a piano competition.



⚠

<u>1</u>

**Yaxuan Jing-** Professor at ECUST, China

Exchange Ph. D.

Dr. Yaxuan Jing published four peerreviewed papers this year. Remarkably, one excellent review on plastic and biomass guided by Prof. Yan was accepted by and published in Nature Reviews Chemistry.

Also, he highlighted that he watched the sunrise at the seaside for the first time, which has been one of his goals since ten years ago. Thanks to him for sharing his memorable moment with us.



 $\heartsuit$ 

### **Felix Bobbink** – CEO in Plastogaz

#### Exchange MSc

Felix and all Plastogaz founders have received an investment from Dow Chemicals, and largely accelerated the development of their hydrocracking technology! The funding is being used to build a pilot plant and move to a new laboratory space.

Felix also shared with us the happiness of his family, as his  $2^{nd}$  adorable baby (family photo, far left) was born in Feb. 2021 and is now almost 2 years old.

Wenjing Li— Work at SGEP, Shandong Research Insititute, China Exchange Ph. D.

In 2022, the most wonderful thing for Wenjing was to welcome his twin children (in the following portrait, the happy family of five is celebrating the twins' first birthday). Congratulations!

Also, Wenjing led the research on super-hydrophobic technology which is at the international leading level and has been highly appraised by experts. Currently, the research is at the stage of product incubation, promotion, and application.



 $\bigcirc$ 



仚

# **MILESTONES**



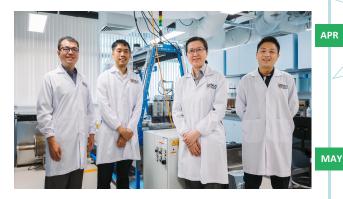
We hosted the first CNY party online and invited both members in Singapore and China to join. 🎉

JAN

FEB

Our project on ammonia cracking to produce hydrogen has been launched! 💵

Prof. Yan as one of the two NUS winners of the NRF Investigatorship, Class of 2023, has started the project. 🟅



Lim Chia Wei received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the NUS Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering for his contribution to the development of pedagogical tools for the learning of the Reactor Design undergraduate module. 👧





Keshia Saradima Indriadi, Xu Di and Nguyen Thai Thien Phuc passed their cQE. Congratulations! 🕎

The Centre of Hydrogen Innovations has commenced orerations and Prof. Yan is one of the researchers who will leading the groundbreaking hydrogen-related research. 💒

Prof. Yan and Lim Chia Wei have successfully applied for a Learning Innovation Fund -Technology (LIF-T) teaching grant to support development of the Reactor Design App. It's a significant achievement as the first teaching grant in the lab's history! 💥

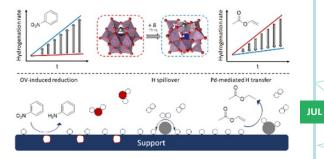


Heartiest farewells to Dr. Lee Kyungho who has started his new position at the Korea Institute of Energy Research. 🞺

#### JUN

Our article to describe how chemical engineering can contribute to food production, entitled "Pathways to food from  $CO_2$  via 'green chemical farming'" has been published in Nature Sustainability!

Our MOE Tier-2 project on chiral amino acid synthesis has been launched!



Prof. Yan attended the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Catalysis in Osaka and Lignin Gordon Research Conference in USA. *S* 

Li Haoyue, Wong Sie Shing and Wang Sikai presented their exciting research works at the TOCAT9 conference held in Fukuoka.

Liu Rui, Chang Jinquan, An Hua, Xiao Yiying and Wei Pingping have passed their oQE. Congratulations! 🐟



Lim Chia Wei embarked on a 4-month exchange at the University of Toronto, Canada, working with Prof. Ramin Farnood on the photocatalytic valorisation of waste biomass.

#### nature sustainability

Explore content 👻 About the journal 👻 Publish with us 💙

nature > nature sustainability > comment > article

Comment | Published: 23 June 2022

# Pathways to food from $CO_2$ via 'green chemical farming'

<u>Ning Yan</u> <sup>⊠</sup>, <u>Kang Zhou</u>, <u>Yen Wah Tong</u>, <u>David Tai Leong</u> & <u>Maxim Park Dickieson</u>

Nature Sustainability 5, 907–909 (2022) Cite this article

Our work using well-defined single-atom catalyst to understand hydrogen spillover phenomenon has been published in Angew. Chem. as VIP and back cover!

Welcome Prof. Yong Sik Ok to Singapore and visit our Yan Group!



AUG

We warmly welcomed our new members, including a Research Fellow (Dr. Zhang Quan), three PhD students (Chen Chen, Dong Yuning and Wang Tie), three MEng students (Ran Chongshihan, Li Yiyang and Zhang Yifan) and a MSc student (Fang Xiao).





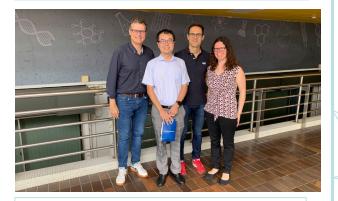
NO

Wang Sikai attended the WCOC9 conference and visited Cardiff Catalysis Institute at Cardiff University, UK, for research collaboration. 🛣



Wang Sikai, Xu Di and Prof. Yan went to SPring-8 in Japan to conduct experiments and visited the University of Hokkaido for research collaboration.

We received an invitation to write a perspective article on plastic upcycling in Science! 💵



Our first article on unifying thermal-, electro-, and photo- catalytic reaction pathways has been published in ACS Catal. More exciting works to come! 💄

Congratulations to Prof. Yan on becoming one of the world's most influential scientific minds based on the Highly Cited Researchers 2022 List! 🛣



VSIS



Prof. Yan visited Korea University, KAIST, Seoul National University and attended the Materials Challenges in Alternative & Renewable Energy conference. 🐇



Thanks Professor Pérez-Ramírez, our Isaac Manasseh Meyer Visiting Professor, and his two lecturers from ETH Zurich, Dr. Antonio José Martín Fernández and Dr. Sharon Mitchell for many good discussions.

A series of new pieces of equipment arrived! 👙



We welcomed Prof. David Allen (U of Texas at Austin), Prof. Ning Yan (U of Toronto), Prof. Ramin Farnood (U of Toronto), Prof. De-en Jiang (Vanderbilt U) in Singapore! 🎺

18

# **GROUP ACTIVITIES**





Chinese New Year Online Celebration

Goodbye, 2021! Hello, 2022!



Farewell Dinner for Dr. Pham





Welcome Dinner For Fresh Students intake Aug. 2022/2023



BBQ Party at Labrador Park

# **GROUP ACTIVITIES**





**Regular Badminton** 



Heart-shaped Gesture Flashing Photo by all lab members





BBQ Party for New Year Celebration at Prof. Yan's House