

MISSION STATEMENT: Ji CHEN

Due to population growth and climate change, hydrology needs more scientists and engineers, with more focused than ever, to explore vital water-related challenges for sustaining our socio-economic development. Among them, floods, droughts, water pollutants, river damming effects, aquatic ecosystem, and greenhouse effects of water vapour have attracted worldwide attention, especially in the Asia-Oceania region, where more than half of the global population reside. The establishment of the Asia-Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS), whose objective focuses on water and other geoscientific issues, is invaluable in integrating the regional research strength in exploring these issues for meeting the urgent needs in the scientific, technical and educational aspects of our region.

Since 2009, I have attended almost all the AOGS annual meetings. In these meetings, I have convened/co-convened and chaired/co-chaired about 20 AOGS sessions in the Hydrological Sciences (HS) section. Some of these sessions have attracted a large number of participants, highlighting their significance in the current and future state of hydrology. Moreover, I have assisted the past and present HS section presidents in smoothly running and advancing the Section, through my services as a HS section secretary and an editor for *Advances in Geosciences*, an earlier publication of AOGS. Fostering young blood to AOGS, specifically HS section, I have encouraged and financially supported my post-graduate students and post-doctoral fellows as well as encouraged other students, colleagues and friends, to attend AOGS annual meetings. Through my participation, and that of my former/current students/post-docs, I have also made a great number of friends in AOGS. We have taken AOGS as a home society, and the annual meeting as a family gathering.

For more than twenty years now, I have explored some key water-related issues, published more than 60 journal papers, delivered more than 100 international conference presentations (including AOGS, AGU, EGU, IAHR, AMS and ASCE), and gave more than 30 seminars in different countries and regions (including Singapore, India, Korea, mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan). I have successfully supervised six PhD graduates and a number of master degree students. I have been an associate editor/editorial board member of three SCI journals (WRR, SERRA and JHER), and a reviewer for a number of top-ranked journals and funding agencies.

Attending the AOGS annual meetings, I have observed that the number of attendants has increased steadily and the quality of presented papers has also improved dramatically. However, I also identify four major challenges for the AOGS HS section. (1) The visibility of HS needs further improvement. Besides the annual meetings, we need also organize/co-organize some other meetings, forums and workshops for specific hydrological topics annually in promoting AOGS and HS section. This will also help attract more talented attendants to annual meetings. (2) The regional needs and features of hydrological issues should be highlighted in the annual meetings. Compared with HS in AGU and EGU, our section can emphasize more on the regional needs and features, and then advance our research strengths. To this end, HS can establish several working committees, and have several specific sessions in annual meetings. For example, to enhance water security, with a working committee, we can address the transboundary water resources management. (3) Cooperation of HS with the other AOGS sections, such as Atmospheric Sciences, Biogeosciences, Interdisciplinary Geosciences, and Ocean Sciences, needs improvement. We can have some working committees to have the experts from different AOGS sections, and then have the annual meeting sessions convened and chaired by these experts. (4) The AOGS journal, *Geoscience Letters*, needs to attract and publish more high-quality papers. We can develop a more efficient and effective manner to enhance the relationships among the editorial board, publisher, reviewers and authors.

With my experience and expertise in serving the hydrological community, especially that of AOGS, I am highly confident of my qualifications and credentials to be the President of the HS section of AOGS. To work on the above key challenges for HS, I can coordinate and work with the experts from the different countries and regions to serve the communities in Asia-Oceania. If elected, I will do my best to implement the same.