

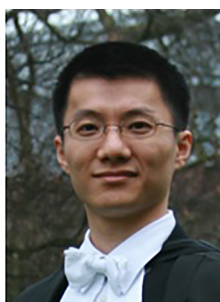
EDITORIAL

EcoMat: Join us in the pursuit of functional materials for green energy and environment

The Doomsday Clock—a metaphoric design indicating the chances of a global catastrophe to humanity—has been set at a record close of *2 minutes from midnight* since 2017 and one of the prime contributing factors is “a growing disregard for the expertise needed to address climate change”. The use of fossil fuel has propelled mankind toward cycles of industrial and technological revolutions; however, our Earth has taken a great toll with massive emission of greenhouse gases causing the rise of sea levels, deforestation as a result of insatiable demands for land and various forms of pollution from anthropogenic activities. While talks of the sixth mass extinction may be a bit far-fetched, it is clear that global warming is threatening to bring an end to humanity. Scientists nowadays must shoulder equal, if not more, responsibility as policy makers in using our expertise to

ensure technological advancement does not come with a cost to our environment and ecosystems.

In this regard, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University has decided to join forces with Wiley to co-publish *EcoMat*, a flagship journal dedicated to multi-disciplinary research on cutting-edge functional materials for green energy and environment. Our scope is intentionally broad to encompass relevant research fields in developing eco-friendly and sustainable energy as well as remedying and preventing pollution to the environment. We recognize the vast progress made in recent years in technologies concerning artificial photosynthesis and hydrogen generation and storage and we also expect imminent breakthroughs in the harvesting and conversion of wind, water and solar energy. *EcoMat* (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/25673173>) will



Zijian Zheng
PolyU



Huijun Zhao
Griffith University



Sang Il Seok
UNIST



SonBinh Nguyen
Northwestern

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

© 2019 The Authors. *EcoMat* published by John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd on behalf of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

be an open-access journal with the aim of extending our readership as broad and far as possible from scientists in academia and industry to policy makers around the world.

EcoMat envisions to serve as a world-leading platform for the exchange of ideas and expertise to tackle impending complex issues on energy, environment, and pollution research with eco-friendly materials. We welcome submission of Original Research Articles, Reviews and Highlights; we will also invite prominent researchers to give their critical opinions through Editorials and Perspectives. Contributors are kindly referred to our Author Guidelines for more details on the criterion of the article types.

The Editorial Board of *EcoMat* is comprised of prominent experts around the world spanning across multiple research fields. Our Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Zijian Zheng from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, is an up-and-coming scientist that harbors interests in the research of surface and polymer science as well as flexible and wearable materials. His experience as Guests Editors for *Advanced Materials* and *Small* are highly valuable for leading *EcoMat* forward. Supporting our Editor-in-Chief are Associate Editors Prof. SonBinh Nguyen (Northwestern University, USA), Prof. Sang Il Seok (Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea) and Prof. Huijun Zhao (Griffith University, Australia). Prof. Nguyen is a highly cited researcher in the catalytic synthesis of living polymers and porous materials while Prof. Seok is an expert in the research on perovskite solar cells. Prof. Zhao's

work in energy and environmental nanomaterials and water source control has led to a prolific publication record followed by successful translation into commercial uses. The Editorial Board is highly motivated and promises full commitment to developing *EcoMat* into a world-leading journal which makes a significant impact to the world in the direction toward green energy and a sustainable environment.

Zijian Zheng¹
SonBinh Nguyen²
Sang Il Seok³
Huijun Zhao⁴

¹*Institute of Textile and Clothing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom Bay, Hong Kong*

²*Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois*

³*School of Energy and Chemical Engineering, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, Ulsan, South Korea*

⁴*Centre for Clean Environment and Energy Gold Coast Campus, Griffith University, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia*

Correspondence

Zijian Zheng, Institute of Textile and Clothing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom Bay, Hong Kong.

Email: zijian.zheng@polyu.edu.hk