

The 1st Announcement
International Symposium on “Environmental Behavior and Effects of
Biomass-derived Charcoal”

(October 9–11, 2010, Hangzhou, China)

Background

Biomass-derived charcoal, also named biochar, can be easily obtained by means of different procedures from wood and agricultural residues. Due to its characteristics of high stability against decay and high capability of adsorption, it can influence the environment through interactions with climate and geology. Researches on the dark oxysoils of *Terra Petra* in central Amazonia suggested that biochar can actually improve the physical / hydrological properties of the soil as well as the availability of nutrients to the plants. It is an excellent soil amendment capable of improving soil fertility. Some recent studies also indicated that biochar plays a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas emission from soil, preventing nutrient runoff from agriculture field and easing nonpoint agricultural pollution. Based on these pioneering researches, the addition of biochar into the soil is considered as one of the most potential and cheaper straightforward ways to enhance the biogenic sequestration of atmospheric CO₂ and, hence, to mitigate climate changes. However, the widespread application of biochar is still facing compelling challenge to provide stronger evidence that the use of biochar can offer an unprecedented opportunity to benefit environment, increase agriculture productivity, reduce greenhouse gas emission, sequesterate atmospheric CO₂ and mitigate climate changes.

An international symposium focusing on the environmental behavior and effects of biochar will be held in Hangzhou, China, from October 9–11, 2010. The main objective of this symposium is to provide a platform for international experts and academicians in the area to exchange ideas, to discuss scientific subjects from the viewpoint of environmental science, geochemistry, biology, soil science and policy, to promote further worldwide researches and collaborations in biochar, and to develop carbonization technology for biochar production in a very sustainable way.

Host organizations

College of Environment and Resources, Zhejiang University, China

China National Research Center of Bamboo, China

Key Laboratory of Non-point Source Pollution Control, Ministry of Agriculture, the People's Republic of China

Key Laboratory of Water Pollution Control and Environmental Safety Technology, Zhejiang Province, China

Sponsors

China National Science Foundation

Blue Moon Fund

Major Themes

- Environmental behavior and environmental effects of biochar

Specific topics will include:

- Biochar production and new products: biomass sources, residues and co-products recycling; efficient and low-consumption carbonization technology for biochar
- Biotic and geochemical behaviors of biochar: physico-chemical characterization (structural recalcitrance and functionalities); biological properties; biotic and abiotic oxidation of biochar in soil; biochar quantification in the environment
- Carbon trading and convention on climate change: carbon sequestration; greenhouse gas accounting and emissions trading; commercialization and policy issues
- Environmental effect of biochar on soil ecosystem: agronomic evaluations and effects on soil C dynamics; biochar effects on soil nutrient transformations and leaching; sorption of organic compounds

Submission of Abstracts

The abstract (300 to 500 words) should be written in English in Microsoft Word format and be sent in electronic format via email at biochar2010@163.com by no later than July 31, 2010. Please include the following information in the manuscripts: Presentation title, Author's full name, Organisation, Mailing and E-mail address, and Telephone number.

Dates to Remember

1. March 1, 2010: Announcement and call for papers;
2. July 31, 2010: Deadline for abstract submission;
3. September 15, 2010: First notice to participants, call for full paper submission, and logistic information;
4. September 20, 2010: Full paper due and final lodging reservation;
5. October 9–11, 2010: Symposium.

Language

The official language of the symposium will be English.

Registration Fee

US\$ 300 for the foreigner, including proceedings, meals during the conference, and city tour.

900 RMB yuan for domestic participant, and 500 RMB yuan for domestic student.

Symposium Contact

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Return Receipt

(Please send back by E-mail before July 31, 2010)

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