

**2016 Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)  
Australasia Conference, Australia, 4 – 7 October 2016  
Nuwan De Silva**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS) for their generous contribution, which allowed me to attend and present at the 2016 Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Australasia conference in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

The conference theme was “Industry, Science and Environment – Towards a Sustainable Future” and attracted a total of 175 delegates from government, academia and business, while representation was greatest from Australia, but also from countries such as New Zealand, Japan and South Korea, as well as delegates from North America, Europe and South America.

The programme included about 100 oral presentations and 30 posters covered an array of topics including metal toxicity and environmental chemistry, ecotoxicology and remediation in extreme environments, biomarkers and bioindicators, environment analysis and monitoring and ecotoxicological risk assessment, many of the topics which were directly relevant to my research. I presented a talk titled “New Zealand mud snail (*Amphibola crenata*) as a bioindicator for estuarine trace metal contaminants: Laboratory study using multiple biomarkers” and received invaluable feedback from the audience.

The conference had three pre-conference workshops: R workshop which detailed statistical methods in ecotoxicology using R and covered basic programming skills, A scientific writing workshop offered practical strategies for composing a scientific paper clearly and efficiently for publication and citation and finally an oil spill response monitoring workshop provided practical and up-to-date guidance on appropriate and accurate planning and implementation of spill responses and subsequent monitoring. The information covered in all three workshops broadened my knowledge and skills.

The conference had a strong focus on encouraging and creating opportunities for student members as many students including myself participated in the mentor-buddy system, which paired students with established members of SETAC-AU community, provided a great chance for me to get to know more members and make new contacts within the society.

Finally, this conference was my first overseas exposure and was a milestone of my academic life and future career as an environmental scientist. Therefore, I would like to thank NZMSS again for your support enabling me to attend this conference.

Sincerely  
Nuwan De Silva