

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Research Output/Impact Prize for the Dean's Research Fund 2017-18

**Brief Introduction of Awardee's
Research Publication/Study and Future Research Development**

Awardee (Dept): Dr. Lam Chung Wah James, Assistant Professor (SES)
Publication Title: Occurrence, Distribution, and Fate of Organic UV Filters in Coral
Communities

A. *Briefly introduce your research publication/study for which you have received the prize.*

Coral communities have become some the most threatened marine ecosystems in the world. Degradation of coral communities can be associated with a wide range of environmental stressors such as pollution. Recent studies have indicated the adverse effects of environmental contaminants to the coral species, resulting in the decline of coral communities.

To better understand this pressing environmental issue, this study was undertaken to investigate the occurrence, distribution and environmental fate of organic ultraviolet (UV) filters, which are extensively used in personal care products such as cosmetics, in five coral species in the local waters. Our findings include quantifying their breakdown products at the study sites and assessing potential risks of organic UV filters to the coral communities. This study provides new information on the environmental fate of these emerging contaminants in the coral habitat and is the first report of the distribution and bioaccumulative potential of these compounds in wild coral communities.

B. *How you used/will use your prize and perhaps its usefulness to your research development?*

The funding will be used for further investigation of other environmental contaminants in the coral communities and wildlife

C. *Expected research outcomes/outputs/impacts arising from this prize.*

New finding on emerging contaminants in marine life and corresponding publication will be arising from the funding support.