**Invite International Youth Conference on Ocean Plastic Pollution & Microplastics**

Hello,

We wanted to inform you early on of an international youth microplastics conference set for August, 2019 in Qingdao, China.

* + - 1. **Organizer**: Asia Marine Educators Association (AMEA), Ocean University of China (OUC)
      2. **Co-organizer**: Guangxi Science College, International Pacific Marine Educators Network (IPMEN) (*PENDING National Marine Educators* Association (NMEA))
      3. **Date**: 2019 Aug 23-27
      4. **Venue**: Ocean University of China, Qingdao, China

**Organizers:**

Yong Ma, China ([mayong@ouc.edu.cn](mailto:mayong@ouc.edu.cn)); Ray Yen ([hamrater@msn.com](mailto:hamrater@msn.com)); Tsuyoshi Sasaki (t-sasaki@kaiyodai.ac.jp); Yasuyuki Kosaka ([kosakayy@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:kosakayy@yahoo.co.jp)); Mark Friedman ([marklewisfriedman@gmail.com](mailto:marklewisfriedman@gmail.com))

Attached is the initial material.  This came out of a meeting of the recent international committee at the National Marine Educators Association conference in Long Beach, California, US.

**Why an international youth conference?**

An international conference as authoritative as possible with as many delegates all with voting rights to discuss, debate, and develop a mission and call to action to then be spread worldwide for all interested organizations. To coordinate on an international scale, activities such as teach-ins, specific campaigns against plastic pollution and polluters, mounting pressure on governments and corporations, promoting innovations and solutions as a byproduct.

The conference will not infringe on any organization's current or future work or activities but is a complimentary effort to pull together internationally what has already been embryonically taking place in many countries, haphazardly/independently, without any coordination and with unnecessary duplication. Our goal is to develop youth leadership with mentorship from existing prestigious environmental and marine organizations.

**We would like your organization to not only endorse, publicize and support this activity, but to have a representative on the international steering committee and to participate in the conference with a delegation**.  It will take place simultaneously with the international convention of the Asian Marine Educators Association.

**We need to coordinate all of the international activities to have the greatest impact on governments and corporations to force them to deal with ocean plastic pollution.**

I will put you on the mailing list for this conference.

Please reply all to collaborate. We look forward to working with you. Please place us on your mailing list.

Mark

Mark L. Friedman

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*Nothing in Biology makes sense except in the light of evolution"-* ***T. Dobzhansky.***

*Apologies in advance for typos & poor auto-corrections*; using voice recognition system.