

### WEBINAR TALK ON

## MICROPLASTICS IN MALAYSIAN RIVERS: OCCURRENCE, SOURCES AND RISKS

Organised by : Environmental Engineering Technical Division

#### 29 SEPTEMBER 2021, WEDNESDAY 2.30PM SPEAKER : Ms. CHEN HUI LING



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# SYNOPSIS

Microplastics (i.e. plastics that are smaller than 5mm in size) are widely recognised as a global concern. However, studies of the occurrence of microplastics in freshwater systems, particularly in Malaysia, are very limited. Information related to microplastics in freshwater systems, primarily rivers, is crucial for the identification of contamination hotspots and the development of management strategies, but not much is known about microplastics in our river systems. To date, there is a lack of information related to the processes governing the dispersal of microplastic across catchments and its transport within river channels. There is also a lack of information on the sources and levels of exposure of microplastics from freshwater systems and drinking water in Malaysia, both of which are critical to assess risks posed by microplastics to human health. This talk will focus on microplastics in rivers and how their concentrations vary both spatially and temporally. This talk will also explore the contribution of different sources of microplastics and the risks that microplastics may pose to ecological and human health.

## SPEAKER'S PROFILE

Chen Hui Ling is a researcher from the University of Nottingham Malaysia (UNM). She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Sciences from UNM in the year 2019 and has worked as a research assistant before starting her PhD with UNM. Her previous research dealt with household waste management and recycling as well as the plastic waste problem in Malaysia. She is currently in her final year of her PhD, where her research focuses on microplastics in freshwater systems in Malaysia, specifically on the sources and contamination levels of microplastics in rivers, as well as the microplastic contamination in drinking water supplies in Greater Kuala Lumpur. She has published a few technical papers on the microplastics in freshwater systems in Malaysia in distinguished publication journals. Some of the technical papers are: (1) the Plastic Waste Problem in Malaysia: Management, Recycling and Disposal of Local and Global Plastic Waste, (2) Spatio-Temporal Variation of Microplastic Along a Rural to Urban Transition in a Tropical River, and (3) **Microplastic** Pollution in Freshwater Systems in Southeast Asia: Contamination Levels, Sources, and Ecological Impacts.