

The Innovation Water: An international journal of water-associated science and technology

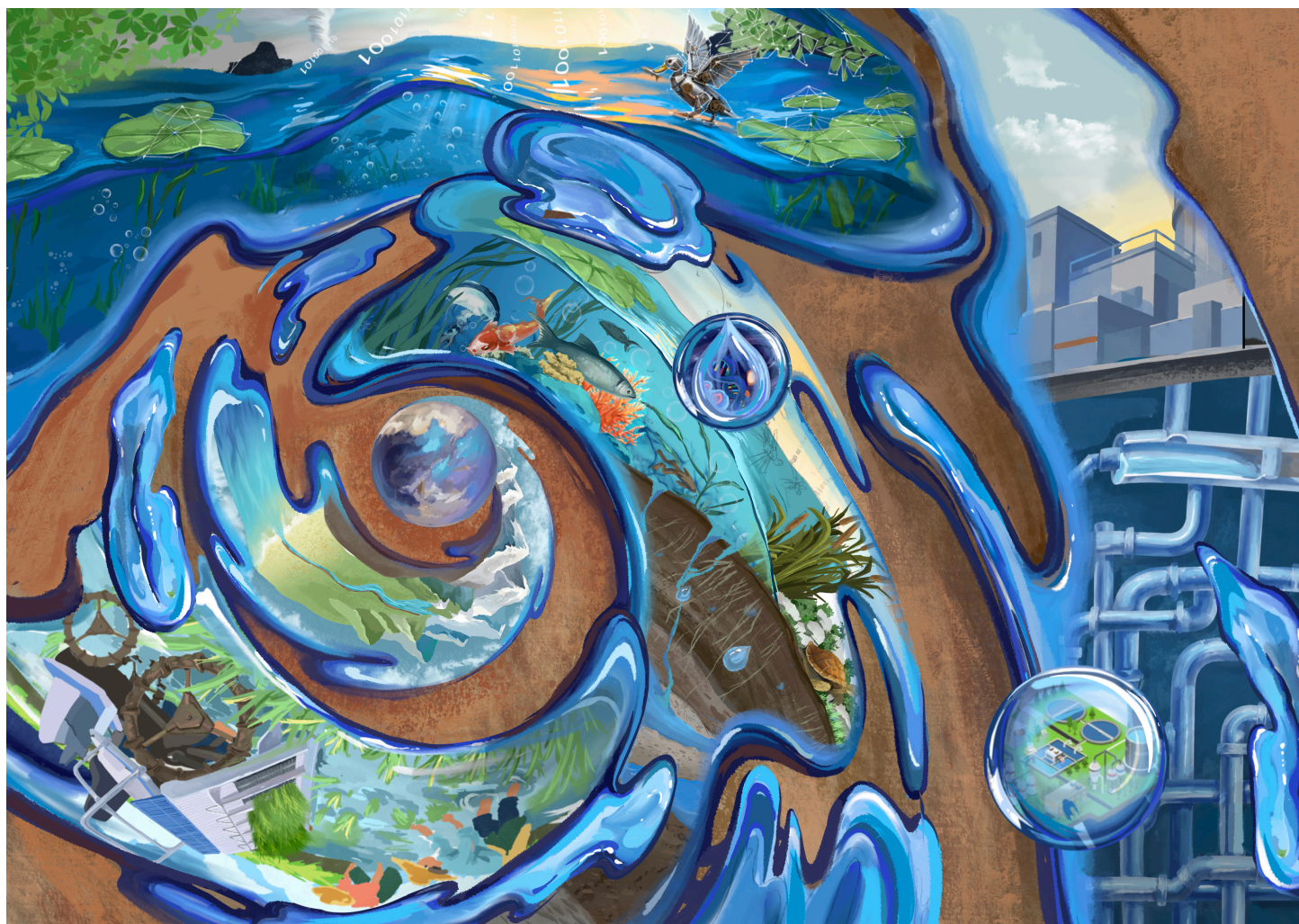
The Innovation Water Editorial Team*

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Water serves as the structural and functional foundation of all life on Earth. As an irreplaceable natural resource and a core ecological element, it underpins the fundamental physical framework of living organisms, sustains essential metabolic processes, and regulates global climate systems and material cycles. No living organism can survive or reproduce without water, rendering it an indispensable prerequisite for the origin, evolution, and prosperity of all terrestrial and aquatic life.

Throughout human civilization, all great societies have originated from river basins and flourished alongside abundant water resources. Several major watersheds have nurtured humanity's earliest settlements, agricultural systems, cultural traditions, and social governance structures, giving rise to the world's four ancient civilizations: Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Indus Valley, and Ancient China.

Water nourishes all things unconditionally. Rivers, lakes, wetlands, groundwater, and coastal water systems deliver critical ecological services, including water supply, flood regulation, water purification, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation. Over the past century, rampant urban expansion,

booming industrial production, and excessive human exploitation of water resources have posed severe threats to global ecological security, human living environments, and socio-economic sustainability. Moreover, accelerated urbanization and industrialization, have driven unprecedented degradation of aquatic ecosystems globally. Widespread issues include eutrophication, black and odorous water bodies, over-extraction of groundwater, shrinkage of lakes, modification of hydrology and flow regimes, aquatic biodiversity loss, and ecological connectivity fragmentation. These issues have substantially weakened the carrying capacity of water systems, disrupted the long-term ecological balance, and constrained the sustainable utilization of regional water resources.

Statistics released by the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO) highlight the astonishing fact that 2.2 billion people still lack access to safely managed drinking water services, 3.5 billion people are deprived of basic safely managed sanitation facilities, and 44% of household wastewater remains untreated. The profound impact on human health and aquatic ecosystems cannot be overstated. Furthermore, extreme climate

events triggered by global climate change have introduced multi-dimensional and superimposed ecological pressures, further exacerbating hydro-ecological degradation and risk to water resources. The legacy impacts and the emerging challenges present unprecedented uncertainty and threats for global water security.

World Bank data indicates that droughts and floods have dominated global disaster records over the past five decades, accounting for 70% of all natural disaster-related fatalities. Regrettably, advanced scientific and technological innovations have not been fully applied at the scale required to address these escalating water-related challenges.

In this context, it is of profound theoretical significance and practical value to promote and disseminate cutting-edge innovations in water science and technology. Such efforts help foster a balanced, equitable, and sustainable development paradigm that integrates cultural importance and connection to water, water ecological conservation, water resource risk prevention, and adaptive responses to extreme climate pressures.

The Innovation Water is a collaborative, inclusive academic platform dedicated to publishing state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary research in water science. The journal actively promotes interdisciplinary integration and global academic collaboration, aiming to advance the sustainable development of human society. Centering on the multi-scale coupling mechanisms of water in natural processes, ecological systems, and human socio-economic activities, **The Innovation Water** strives to address pivotal scientific questions and practical challenges concerning climate change, environmental pollution, biodiversity loss, and global water security. The advancement of modelling, molecular, remote sensing, water treatment and machine learning technologies place the scientific community in a position of strength to address these global water security challenges. Committed to evolving into a leading academic journal in the field of water sciences, **The Innovation Water** will serve as a valuable academic resource for global scholars dedicated to advancing planetary sustainability.

Let us see the unseen and change the unchanged.