6th International Forum on Sustainable Future in Asia

Fate of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria from Wastewater to Water Environment

- From Asian Perspectives -



Estimated annual deaths attributed to AMR by O'Neil Report

Antimicrobial Resistance is emerging risk

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2 O'Neil Review 2016 (https://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/160525_Final%20paper_with%20cover.pdf)







Thailand: ARB in Chaophraya River System

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Sri Lanka: ARB in Kelani River



Fig. 2 Percentage Contribution of Different Level of Antibiotic Resistance of *E. coli* isolated from Kelani River. Bar diagram exhibiting percentage of different class of antibiotic resistance (i.e., resistant, intermediate, and susceptible). For a levofloxacin (LVX), b ciprofloxacin (CIP), c norfloxacin (NFX), d kanamycin monosulfate (KM), e tetracycline (TC), and f sulfamethoxazole (ST) in the Kelani River of 2017 representing wet season (K11–K14) and dry season (K22–K24) in 2018.



Fate of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria in Wastewater Treatment





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Does a WWTP work as a reservoir or barrier of ARB?



It works as a barrier, but also reserves ARB in it.

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WWTP as a barrier of ARB

Bacteria population are reduced in WWTP



WWTP as a barrier of ARB

◆ 金沢大学 Reduction of ARB = total bacteria

Log removal values of ARB equal to LRV of total bacteria

Created from Novo & Manaia 2010. Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol. 87,





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[1] Bengtsson-Palme et al., Sci. Total Environ. 572 (2016) 697–712. doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.06.228.

16 [2] Lee et al. Science of the Total Environment 605–606 (2017) 906–914





http://www.beachapedia.org/Combined_Sewer_Overflows

In USA, 20% of annual discharge of combined sewage is discharged as untreated CSO.

USEPA. Report to Congress on Impacts and Control of Combined Sewer Overflows and 434 Sanitary Sewer Overflows; EPA Publishing, 2004.



Antibiotic resistant bacteria in combined sewer overflows

Annual discharge of ARB from CSO



Monsoon affects AMR in environment



Monsoon affects AMR in environment

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AMR discharge affected by Monsoon



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- Urban wastewater is the major source of AMR to clinically important antibiotics.
- WWTP reduces total ARB loads to environment, but also carry over some ARB to effluent.
- *Stormwater has much higher ARB loads* than WWTP effluent.
- ARB in water environment is *diluted in* rainy season in Monsoon area (although ARB loads can be higher.)

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