

Advanced Redox Technology (ART) Lab 고도산화환원 환경공학 연구실



http://artlab.re.kr

# Introduction

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## Are We Terrorists?

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Yu	val Noah Har	num rari	
Å	유발하라리 포함 응리 (*	<u> 엔</u> 스	. S.
		유인원에서 사이보그까지, 인간 역사의 대당하고 위대한 질문	
	*역시와 현대 세계에 가장 중요한 질문 이 책을 사랑할 수밖에 없다" 	Э СТАТЕ 44.       (с). с). 40 млй:       изван 200 млй:       изван 200 млй:       Уликан       Уликан	

"HOMO Sapiens transformed itself into the master of the entire planet and the terror of the ecosystem.

Unfortunately, the Sapiens regime on earth has so far produced little that we can be proud of."

In "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Harari (2011)

# **Top 10 Problems for the Next 50 Years**

Professor R. E. Smalley, Energy & Nanotechnology Conference, Rice University, May 3, 2003.

- 1. Energy
- 2. Water
- 3. Food
- 4. Environment
- 5. Poverty
- 6. Terrorism & war
- 7. Disease
- 8. Education
- 9. Democracy
- **10. Population**





### Water-Energy-Food Nexus



areas

### $\sqrt{}$ What is Environmental Engineering?

Environmental engineering is the solution of problems of environmental sanitation, notably in the provision of:

- Safe, palatable, and ample public water supplies
- The proper disposal or recycle of wastewater and solid wastes
- The adequate drainage of urban and rural areas for proper sanitation
- Control of water, soil, and atmospheric pollution

#### $\sqrt{10}$ Mission of Environmental Engineering

To improve or sustain the quality of life by protecting or restoring environmental quality.

- Driven mainly by public health concerns
- Also by aesthetics and environmental protection.



### $\sqrt{}$ What do Environmental Engineers do?

- Water and wastewater treatment plants/processes
- Air pollution control
- Solid/Hazardous waste management
  - design of treatment and disposal facilities
- Industrial ecology and safety compliance
  - materials and energy flow







#### $\sqrt{}$ What do Environmental Engineers do? (Cont'd)

- Contaminated site assessment and remediation
- Mathematical modeling
  - Risk analysis
  - Fate and transport of priority pollutants
- Environmental law and regulations
- Water resources management
- Research



#### $\sqrt{10}$ Environmental Engineering for the extension of human lifespan

#### Medical Milestones

From 5-14 January 2007, <u>the British Medical Journal</u> conducted an online poll to decide the most important medical advance since 1840. From a list initially suggested by our readers, an expert panel chose the top 15, which formed the basis for the vote.

#### Sanitation (clean water and sewage disposal) emerged as the winner.

- 1. Sanitation (clean water and sewage disposal)
- 2. Antibiotics
- 3. Anaesthesia
- 4. Vaccines

. . .

5. Discovery of DNA structure



 $\sqrt{\rm We}$  have made considerable progress in the last few decades (Really?)

- Less emissions per capita/economic activity
- Most cities have cleaner air
- Most lakes and rivers are more "fishable and swimmable"

#### $\sqrt{\text{Some problems were solved. Particles?}}$

- The situation of particle pollution is now better than the past?
- The levels of PM10 and PM2.5 in Seoul tend to decrease.



\* 자료: 서울연구원

#### $\sqrt{\text{Some problems were solved? Point Source Discharge:}}$

- The development and widespread supply of wastewater treatment facilities have cleaned the point source discharge.
- Miracle of the Taehwa River "태화강의 기적"







### **Pollution Sources**

Point Source

Nonpoint Source

#### $\sqrt{\text{Some problems were solved? Lake Erie:}}$

- Lake Erie (one of the five great lakes in North America) was "dead" but we modeled the problem, working with the IJC (International Joint Commission), passed the Clean Water Act, and removed P from detergents.
- Now, POPs, invasive species and climate change hypoxia threaten again.



### √ Some problems were solved? DDT, PCBs...:

- DDT provided great benefits for malaria control but it was killing eagles and other birds.
  Silent Spring galvanized people and EPA passed FIFRA & banned many POPs.
- Now, new chemicals cause other problems (e.g., endocrine disruption).





# **Remaining Problems**

#### $\sqrt{\rm But},$ we still face some old environmental problems

- Smog (& particles)
- Oil spills
- Sewage contamination
- Soil & groundwater contamination
- Waste disposal



# **New Problems**

#### $\sqrt{\rm And},$ we have new problems of a different nature

- More intractable and less visible pollutants
  - CO<sub>2</sub>
  - CFCs
  - Rn
  - Micropollutants
- More global; transcending international boundaries
  - Acid rain
  - Ozone depletion
  - Greenhouse gases
  - Micro- & nano-plastics
- Longer response times
  - Surface water vs. groundwater contamination

### **Climate Change and Water Problems**

- Climate change increases the frequency of extreme weather events.
- Frequent droughts and floods make water quality management difficult and complicated.



### **Emerging Contaminants**

#### **Engineered Nanoparticles**



 60 Items are being regulated in drinking water (Korea).

> The CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) registered 55 million chemicals.

 More than 100,000 chemicals are massproduced & commercially used worldwide.

### **Occurrence and Fate of Water Contaminants**



Household





Agriculture



Industry



WWTP





**DWTP** 

### **PPCPs in Wastewater Effluent**



Sim et al., 2010

# **Evolution of Microbial Contaminants**

- The development of antibiotics caused the occurrence of super-bacteria
- Ironically, wastewater treatment processes have been good incubators of super-bacteria





What about disinfectant-resistant bacteria?

### **Great Pacific Garbage Patch and Plastic Pollution**



# Paradigm Shift

 $\sqrt{\mbox{The most pressing problems have changed and are more complicated}}$ 

- Problems in the past
- Streams were "on fire" due to point source discharges
- Fish kills, eutrophication
- Fecal contamination
- Rampant air pollution (sulfur, particles, smog)
- Pesticides

- Problems in the present
- Climate change (mitigating and adapting)
- Biodiversity losses
- Nonpoint sources; hypoxia
- Shale gas; energy/water
- Water reuse; water/energy
- Micropollutants (EDCs, PPCPs)

### **Estimation and Magnitudes**

- In this class, you will need:
  - Problem solving and estimation skills
  - Common sense for magnitudes.

For example, how much water and wastewater is produced in 1 day in Seoul?

#### 1. Exhausting Fossil Fuel Resources

• Based on 1980 oil consumption rate, how long will worldwide reserves last?

#### 2. Sulfur Emissions

• How many tons of sulfur were liberated to the atmosphere in the coal burned worldwide in 1980?

#### 3. Food Consumption

• What fraction of the annual plant growth on earth (primary productivity) is eaten by humans?

#### **1. Exhausting Fossil Fuel Resources**

• From data found in literature:

• Lifetime =  $\frac{\text{quantity of resource}}{\text{rate of consumption}}$ Lifetime =  $\frac{1.0 \times 10^{22} J}{1.35 \times 10^{20} J / yr}$ 



- Lifetime = 74 years
- What assumptions do we need to question about reserves and consumption rate?

#### **2. Sulfur Emissions**

- How many tons of sulfur were liberated to the atmosphere in the coal burned worldwide in 1980?
  - Worldwide energy consumption from coal: 90 x 10<sup>18</sup> J
  - Energy content of coal: 30 x 10<sup>9</sup> J/ton
  - Sulfur content of coal: 2.5% by weight

Try it!

#### **3. Food Consumption**

What fraction of the annual plant growth on earth is eaten by humans?

- Average person consumes: 2.5 x 10<sup>6</sup> cal/day (9.0 x 10<sup>8</sup> cal/yr)
- Assuming world has 7.0 x 10<sup>9</sup> people
- World consumption is: 6.3 x 10<sup>18</sup> cal/yr (2.6 x 10<sup>19</sup> J/year)
- Net primary production =  $3.0 \times 10^{21}$  J/year

Humans consume:

$$\frac{2.6 \times 10^{19} \, J \, / \, year}{3.0 \times 10^{21} \, J \, / \, year} \times 100\% = 0.9\%$$