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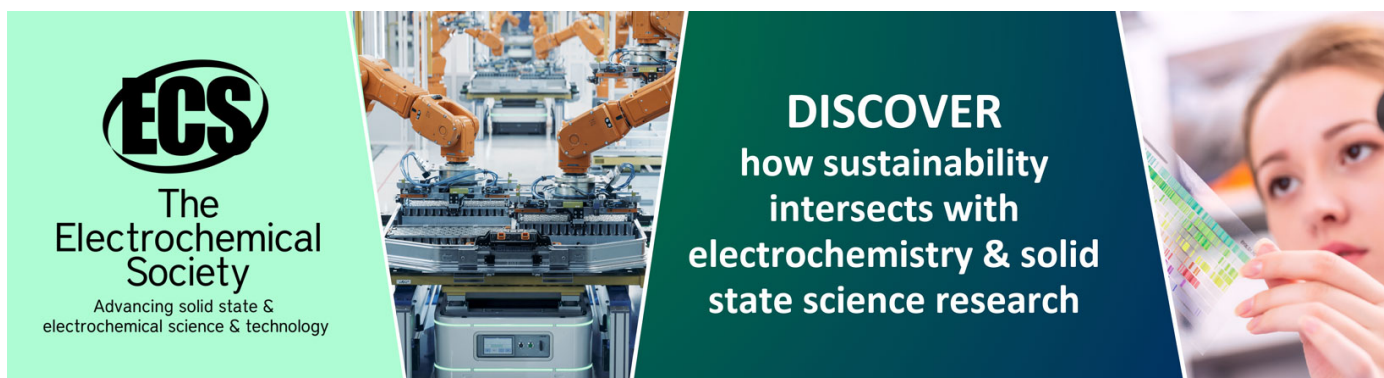
International Conference on Agricultural Technology, Engineering, and Environmental Sciences

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ICATES 2020

"Emerging Novel Research in Agriculture, Engineering, and Environmental Sciences"

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Preface

This conference is the 2nd International Conference on Agricultural Technology, Engineering, and Environmental Sciences (ICATES) which has been successfully conducted previously in 2019. The main topic of this conference is "*Emerging Novel Research in Agriculture, Engineering, and Environmental Sciences*". The first ICATES conference is also published in IOP Earth and Environmental Sciences on Volume 365 November 2019. At first, we plan to conduct this conference physically just like previous ICATES in August 2019. However, due to the unforeseen circumstances of global pandemic COVID-19, the ICATES 2020 conference was carried out virtually by zoom meeting platform from which we gather all participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sudan, Germany related to the conference topics. We took this option because this conference was already designated and funded. Keynote and invited speakers were also scheduled for this event. Many delegations and authors requested for this conference to be performed, even virtually, since they need it to cover their publication and sharing knowledge requirements.

The conference itself was run as planned on 21st September 2020 with the support from virtual event organizer started from 8.00 am to 19.00 pm. The ICATES committee members were managed this event in a particular room as a studio along with two appointed MCs. The conference was officially opened by the Rector of Syiah Kuala University and it is broadcast lively via YouTube platform with recorded participants reach 416 were joined. The invited speakers from UiTM Malaysia and UGM Gadjah Mada University were firstly started the session, while the Keynote speaker from Julius Kuhn Institute, Germany started his session on 13.30 (Indonesia Time) or 08.30 in Germany.

Moreover, parallel sessions were started after keynote speaker session and all participants were divided into 7 breakout rooms in zoom platform based on their related sub-topics. The operator acted as virtual Host and Co-host to manage and ensure all participants were put in the right place. Each participant was identified by renaming their name to room number and author full name. Presenter was given 10 minutes for power point presentation via Screen Sharing and 5 minutes for discussion and shifted to next presenter. During the conference, video capabilities were turned on to ensure dynamic conference.

We firmly believe that the success of a virtual conference like this event can be achieved by arranging a stimulating program. We sincerely hope that next forthcoming ICATES conference will be conducted lively in touch as previously. Thus, everyone finds the conference is stimulating and enjoying.

We sincerely acknowledge to those who supported this event, especially for Keynote and Invited speakers from JKI-Bund Germany, UiTM Malaysia and King Saud University. Also we acknowledge to LPPM *Universitas Syiah Kuala* for funding support through BPPI scheme 2020, Faculty of Agriculture (FP Unsyiah), UMP Pahang and *Politeknik Aceh Selatan* for collaborative partners. We hope that this event will strengthen our networks and further collaborative research.

Cordially,
Editors,

Agus Arip Munawar
Indera Sakti Nasution