



香港中文大學化學系  
Department of Chemistry  
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

# The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## Department of Chemistry - Research Seminar Series

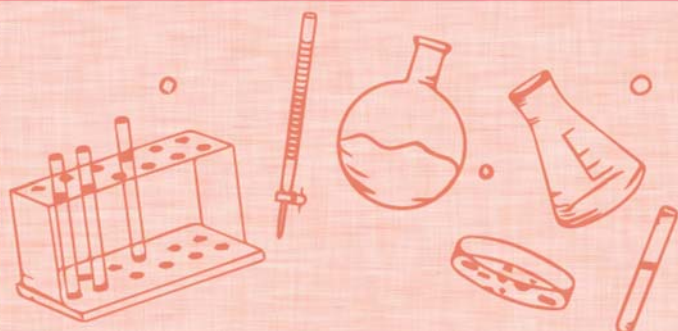


### Role of Water in Catalysis

**Professor TAN Choon Hong**  
School of Chemistry,  
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University

**14 April 2023 (Friday)**  
**4:30 PM**  
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**Contact Person:**  
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# Role of Water in Catalysis

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Organic chemists typically regard water with apprehension, as it has the potential to degrade reagents or catalysts and therefore ruin a reaction. However, water can also play a crucial role in catalysis and can accelerate chemical reactions. In this lecture, we will explore the various roles that water can play in chemical reactions, including 'on water' reactions, 'in water' reactions, phase transfer reactions, micellar reactions, and bio-orthogonal reactions. By examining these different types of reactions, we can gain a deeper understanding of how water can be used to facilitate chemical processes, rather than hindering them.

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Prof. Tan received his BSc (Hons), First Class from the National University of Singapore in 1995 and completed his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1999. Following that, he carried out two years postdoctoral training at the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University. Subsequently, he worked as a Research Associate at Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Harvard Medical School for another year before joined the Department of Chemistry, National University of Singapore as Assistant Professor in 2003. He was then promoted to Associate Professor in 2010. He joined Nanyang Technological University in 2012 as an Associate Professor and was promoted to Full Professor in 2016. His research interest is in the field of Synthetic Organic Chemistry and Catalysis.

Professor Tan is the immediate past President of Singapore National Institute of Chemistry and current Vice-President of the Singapore National Academy of Science. He is recently named the recipient of the 2023 Ta-Shue Chou Lectureship Award.