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**School of Earth Science and Environmental Engineering student Sung-ho Chae was named "BK21 Plus Outstanding Business Person" and receives award from the Ministry of Education**

- GIST (President Kiseon Kim) – School of Earth Science and Environmental Engineering Ph.D. student Sung-ho Chae (Professor Joon Ha Kim advisor) was named "BK21 Plus Outstanding Business Person" and received an award from the Ministry of Education.
- Every year since 2015, the National Research Foundation of Korea and the Ministry of Education have been awarding outstanding graduate students and researchers to discover and encourage talented people who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the BK21 Plus program.
  - The first-phase of the BK21 Plus program started in 1999 and has supported 510,000 people for 20 years. Currently, about 32,000 people with master's and doctorate degrees are participating. The Ministry of Education, after conducting evaluations by a vocational review committee, selected 32 finalists from 197 nominees who were recommended by a total of 542 businesses participating in the BK21 Plus project.

- For the past three years since entering GIST in 2016, Sung-ho Chae participated in the BK21 Plus program and has written the first English textbook in the field of pressure-retarded osmosis and then translated it into Korea. In addition, he also wrote a chapter on pressure osmosis technology for a textbook.
  - He also published four SCI(E) papers in international journals (three as first author) and has been granted patents that he has licensed to local companies. Sung-ho Chae was recognized and rewarded for these achievements during his short 3-year BK21 Plus business experience.
- Sung-ho Chae said, "I am delighted to have been able to contribute to the academic community through my research efforts during the past three years. Although pressure-retarded osmosis technology has made remarkable progress in recent years, there is still a long way to go before it is commercialized. I will do my best to contribute to eco-friendly energy industries as well as the commercialization of this technology in the future."
- Sung-ho Chae's advisor Professor Joon Ha Kim said, "Despite its high technological potential, pressure-retarded osmosis has yet to be introduced in Korea despite being an eco-friendly process. We hope that our research achievements will contribute to expanding the technology in Korea."
- This year's fifth BK21 Plus project award ceremony was held on March 20, 2019, at Amoris Hall in Meritz Tower, Gangnam, and a total of 32 graduate and up-and-coming researchers from all academic fields including natural science, engineering, agriculture, fisheries, medicine, humanities, social sciences, and design were selected by the evaluation process.

