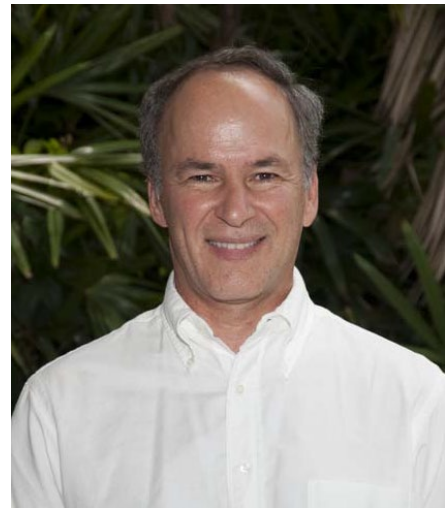


## 7.2 Congratulations to IES

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Congratulations to the IES (Institute for Environmental Sciences) team for 30 years of research. In particular, congratulations to Dr. Keiji Nitta for his vision and guidance in helping IES become an internationally recognized research institute and his continuing role as Honorary President of The Society of Eco-Engineering. I have had the opportunity and great pleasure to visit the IES facilities three times over the past 20 years as a part of IES international symposiums. In addition, NASA had the opportunity to send several researchers to visit IES through the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) fellowships, as well as collaborate through the International Advanced Life Support Working Group or IALSWG, which ran for over 10 years.

Although it has been nearly 15 years since I have been to IES, it was and is a remarkable research facility for studying closed atmosphere, water and materials cycling, and apply these findings to human life support and habitation systems for space. The data generated by IES researchers are truly unique and many of the IES publications provide a baseline for bioregenerative life support researchers around the world. I still refer to the unique gas balance measurements with photosynthetic plants and respiring humans and as well as the very thorough selection and testing of crops and menus developed for CEEF experiments at IES. NASA and other space agencies around the world have learned from these findings at IES. But perhaps most rewarding was the opportunity to meet and work with the talented and dedicated IES research team. This has built long-lasting professional and collegial relationships.

I congratulate you all on 30 years of innovative and rewarding research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray M. Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ray" being particularly prominent.

Raymond M. Wheeler