



MEDIA RELEASE

WATER INVESTMENTS POWER BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AT CHINA BUSINESS FORUM

Singapore, 17 May 2010 – The 300 attendees to the highly-anticipated China Business Forum at Singapore International Water Week 2010 will receive key market intelligence on the outlook and drivers for doing business in the China water sector. According to the London-based Global Water Intelligence, the China water market is estimated to be worth more than RMB 225 billion with a yearly growth rate of about 9.5 per cent. Increased financing and support by the government, greater yields from high-value water projects and exponential demand for city-state water management solutions in China have focused the water world's attention on this emerging superpower economy, and will be key themes in the dialogue at the flagship event.

Business opportunities in China's water sector have been on the incline and many Singapore-based water companies have secured a strong presence in one of the fastest-growing water market in the world. This is supported by strong public investments such as the Chinese government's allocation of RMB 1 trillion for investments in the water sector in its 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010).

As the most populous country in the world, the need to meet water demand across the rapidly-urbanising country with a population of over 1.3 billion has led to an urgent call for sustainable water projects to boost water supply, quality and affordability. In addition, the government has also identified water treatment and management infrastructure enhancement as key to maximising precious resources of water.

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The dialogue at the China Business Forum will be led by representatives from China's Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Housing and Ministry of Urban-Rural Development, as well as officials and mayors from provinces and cities, who will provide detailed insights on the water resources outlook in China and demand for wastewater collection and treatment.

Ms Pan Shuhong, Co-Chair of the China Business Forum and Executive Chairman of Memstar Technology Ltd said: "China's water industry has benefitted tremendously from the government's RMB 1 trillion investment. We are very confident that the impending 12th Five-Year Plan will inject greater stimulus for further investments in the water sector. Under China's focus of developing a resource-efficient environment, the need to capitalise on various financial and technical resources becomes increasingly crucial. This creates immense opportunities for organisations which are keen to participate in the advancement of China's water sector."

The country's rapid industrialisation and urbanisation, coupled with the ever-increasing irrigation needs for agricultural use, continue to drive the pressure for regular, high-quality and sustainable water supply. These have generated significant business opportunities in water reclamation, water treatment, and desalination as China looks externally for win-win partnerships and solutions with proven track records to address its water issues.

As the first to construct China's largest desalination plant in Tianjin to treat up to 100,000m³ of water daily, Singaporean company Hyflux has gained a strategic foothold in the China market. Other companies such as United Envirotech, Memstar and Sembcorp are also making their presence felt. United Envirotech and Memstar are jointly building one of Asia's largest Membrane Bio-reactor in Guangzhou, with a treatment capacity of 100,000m³/day, while Sembcorp's sustainable wastewater treatment/reclamation project in Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu province, is the recipient of the Honour Award at the 2010 International Water Association (East Asia Regional Project) Innovation Awards.



“China is a fast-growing market and international water companies are racing to create a strong presence there. However, demands and challenges for water projects vary in the many cities and provinces of China. As such, attendees of the China Business Forum held during the Singapore International Water Week will find the market-specific insights provided by Chinese officials and water companies beneficial in enabling them to discover concrete and viable business opportunities. The sharing of global best practices will also ensure that attendees find the session rewarding as they forge partnerships that will drive the advancement of China’s water industry,” said Michael Toh, Managing Director of Singapore International Water Week.

Key delegates who will address the China Business Forum include:

- Mr. Ye Jianchun, Commissioner, Taihu Basin Authority, Ministry of Water Resources
- Mr. Lin Xudian, Deputy Director-General, Department of Water Resources, Guangdong Provincial Government
- Mr. Chen Tie, Chief Engineer, Beijing Water Authority
- Mr. Li Qiang, General Manager, Jilin Water Group
- Senior officials from China’s Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development

Additionally, the China Business Forum will also feature a special presentation on Tianjin Eco-City, a collaboration project between Singapore and China, to showcase highlights of the water aspects within the development.

The China Business Forum will be held on 1 July at the Suntec International Convention & Exhibition Centre. Other Business Forums which will be held during the Singapore International Water Week will focus on Americas, Europe, India, Japan, Middle East and North Africa, and Southeast Asia. In addition to sharing market details, the eight Business Forums will also host the signing of several memoranda of understanding between water bodies and commercial entities to share best practices and boost the development of water solutions and infrastructure.



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About Singapore International Water Week 2010

The Singapore International Water Week is the global platform for water solutions. It brings policymakers, industry leaders, experts and practitioners together to address challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities and celebrate achievements in the water world.

Comprising the Water Leaders Summit, Water Convention, Water Expo and Business Forums, it culminates in the presentation of the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize, a prestigious international award to recognise outstanding contributions in solving global water issues. The third Singapore International Water Week will be held from 28 June 28 to 2 July 2010. The theme is Sustainable Cities – Clean and Affordable Water.

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