

# Singapore Water Association celebrates 15 years



Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Amy Khor, standing with the 2020-2022 Young Water Professionals Committee

Held on 17th January, the Singapore Water Association (SWA)'s 15th Anniversary Gala celebrated the organisation's growth, from 27 founding members in 2004 to the current 260 members today.

The event was attended by Environment and Water Resources Minister Dr Amy Khor, who said, "SWA's growth in many ways is synonymous with Singapore's journey of sustainable development. To a small low-lying city state like Singapore, sustainable development is a necessary means to survival.

Since our independence, Singapore has always sought to balance economic growth with environmental protection and social inclusion. This unwavering principle has enabled our people to live in a clean and green environment, and have access to essential resources."

Dr Khor added, "As one of the most water-stressed countries in the world, our Water Story is an achievement we can be proud of. We have embarked on an integrated, effective and cost-efficient way to meet our water needs with investments in research and technology to treat, recycle and supply water. In addition to developing solutions like NWater, we have also integrated our used

water into our water system in a closed loop, which enables us to reuse every drop of water by recycling it endlessly.

We are taking the ideas of the circular economy and closed loop further with the development of Tuas Nexus. When completed, it will be the world's first facility to co-digest wastewater sludge and food waste into biogas which, in turn, will help power the co-located waste-to-energy and water reclamation plants."

This comes as Singapore seeks ways to meet growing challenges - the country's demand for water currently sits at 430 million gallons a day, or the equivalent of 782 Olympic-sized swimming pools. "By 2060, our total water demand could almost double, with the non-domestic sector accounting for about 70%," said Dr Khor. "As our water demand increases in tandem with economic growth, we must continue to invest in research and technology, and develop innovative solutions."

The Gala also bore witness to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The High Commission of Canada, The Singapore-German Chamber of Industry, The Taiwan External Trade Development Council and The U.S. Department

of Commerce, International Trade Administration. During the signing, the SWA expressed its interest in collaboration to promote the shared interests of:

- Raising awareness toward the importance and enhancement of global resource sustainability
- Sharing ideas and information
- Creating viable and dynamic commercial exchanges between the respective countries involved

Said Organising Committee Chairman and SWA Vice-President Chew Men Leong, "We hope to ink our common goal in creating viable and dynamic commercial exchanges between SWA members and various foreign companies and government agencies for the new year and more to come."

Besides the MOU signing, the Gala also introduced the Young Water Professionals (YWP) Committee for 2020-2022. Founded in 2017, the SWA YWP aims to support the SWA's efforts by profiling and promoting the water industry as a viable and fulfilling career option to graduates and young professionals. The SWA YWP also actively reaches out to institutes of higher learning (IHLs) to conduct career talks and networking sessions, promoting students' interest in the water industry. **WWA**



The MOU signed between the SWA and the Singapore-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce