



## Careers@Singapore: Water Technology Industry

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### Singapore's vision for this industry

From water rationing in the 1960s to building a world-class hydrohub today – Singapore now aims to supply technology and products to 3% of the global water market over the next decade, and become the “Global Hydrohub”. In the following 10 to 15 years, more ambitious plans will unfold to enhance our technological and water management capabilities through collaborative Research and Development (R&D). These plans, together with the growing global emphasis on water and the environment, place us in a prime position to take the lead in this booming industry as an R&D base and a provider of water solutions.

In a country where diversity, innovation and change are embraced with passion, Singapore's enterprising water industry is flourishing more than ever before with new and exciting energies. Our strategic location in the heart of Asia has attracted major global water players to use Singapore as a test-bedding and piloting base for new water technologies, and a launch pad to expand into the region. These innovations have resulted in a thriving water industry eco-system with over 50 local and international water companies here today.

Our vision is to increase Value-Added (VA) contribution from the water sector from \$0.5 billion (0.3% of GDP) in 2003 to \$1.7 billion (0.6% of GDP) by 2015. Jobs for this sector are expected to double to about 11,000 in 2015, with a large part of the growth in professional and skilled categories.

The industry development strategy includes:

- Getting major international water companies to anchor their R&D, engineering, manufacturing and headquarters operations in Singapore.
- Grooming local companies to be players in the regional and global water markets.
- Creating a conducive environment for start-up companies in this industry.



## Who are the leading players here?

### **Black & Veatch**

This leading engineering design and consultancy company's core expertise is in the water industry. Its 120-staff International Headquarters in Singapore manages its Asia-Pacific operations. Black & Veatch also launched a Global Advanced Water Design Centre in February 2007, providing engineering design services to support its water projects globally. Singapore will be their only such strategic centre, aside from their Kansas City headquarters.

### **GE Water & Process Technologies**

This General Electric Company unit will invest S\$130m over the next decade to establish a world-scale Global Water R&D Centre at the National University of Singapore. 100 top-tier researchers will engage in R&D activities aimed at alleviating pressing water issues in areas as diverse as water treatment and systems integration, fundamental chemical and membrane applications to ion-exchange technology.

### **Hyflux**

Hyflux was awarded the Water Company of the Year 2006 by Global Water Intelligence magazine. Its membrane-based seawater desalination plant in Singapore, Asia's largest, will supply 10% of the country's water needs, while its water R&D centre now has close to 100 researchers. In January 2007, Hyflux established a joint R&D Centre with Marmon Water LLC, one of the world's largest residential water treatment systems manufacturers, focusing on commercial and residential water products R&D.

### **Keppel Corporation**

Keppel has invested S\$50 million in a 50-researcher environmental technology centre to conduct R&D in solid waste, water and wastewater treatment. This Singapore-grown industrial conglomerate is also taking the lead in developing the Sino-Singapore Eco-City in Tianjin, China.

### **Siemens Water Technologies**

The world leader in products, systems and services for water and wastewater treatment announced the set-up of a S\$50m Global Water Technology Research Centre in Singapore. The 60-researcher centre is key to Siemens' plans in becoming a competence centre for water and used-water technologies in the Asia-Pacific region. Siemens is already using Singapore as its Asia-Pacific headquarters.



## Research Centres

The National University of Singapore set up the NUS Environment Research Institute (NERI) to draw together Environment & Water Technology (EWT) expertise from across the university.

The Singapore-Delft Water Alliance (SDWA) has been set up by NUS, PUB and Delft Hydraulics, a Netherlands-based international research and specialist consultancy firm. The SDWA will carry out research on aquatic systems, smart sensing and engineering and technologies relating to the urban water cycle. It will also offer Masters and PhD training in areas such as Hydraulic Engineering and Water Management.

At Nanyang Technological University, the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) has been set up to bring together the EWT efforts in the university. The NEWRI eco-system includes the Singapore Membrane Technology Centre (SMTC) headed by renowned membranes expert Professor Anthony Fane, and the DHI-NTU Water & Environment Research Centre & Education Hub, set up by DHI Water & Environment, a Denmark-based international consultancy and research organisation, and NTU.



Singapore International Water Week 2008

## Where do you fit into the picture?

The need for sustainable fresh water supply is clearly an increasingly important global concern today, with countries everywhere actively seeking solutions for their water and environmental management needs. The water industry is expected to enjoy robust growth in the coming years, and Singapore will be there to ride the wave of this new economy.

Singapore has earmarked the environment and water industry as a strategic growth area to help diversify the economy. As part of this commitment, Singapore is hosting the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW), an annual water event that brings together global water experts and showcases practical water technology and business solutions.

Companies based in Singapore are working on R&D, testbedding and the development of new water technologies and encouraging the adoption and marketing of these technologies in overseas markets. There is a great demand for research talent and engineers who will be groomed to meet the industry and research institutions' growing needs. Besides attracting top talent to join this industry, Singapore is also prepared to train the next generation of research and professional leaders through scholarships, and support the companies' manpower efforts through a programme to jointly sponsor scholarships for Masters and PhD studies.

There is no better time to be in Singapore than now – the city-state is growing economically, with a constant bustle of activity. Situated at the heart of the world's fastest growing economies, the city is a bridge between the East and West, burgeoning with diversity and opportunities. Couple these factors with the city's superb physical infrastructure, sophisticated IT network, great variety of living, dining and entertainment options, and you have one of the most livable cities around.



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