

Clarifier

A Newsletter for and by Members of the Illinois Water Environment Association

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Singapore International Water Week Recap

By Lou Storino, President Elect

The Water Environment Research Foundation, Water Environment Federation, and National Association of Clean Water Agencies partnered with the Singapore Public Utility Board (PUB) to host a United States delegation of utility leaders at Singapore International Water Week 2014 (SIWW). I had the opportunity to attend SIWW as part of the eight-member US delegation.

The conference was held June 1-5. Global water leaders and practitioners from the public and private sectors gathered to engage in discussion and debate, network with key industry players, showcase leading-edge technologies and best practices, and identify practical methodologies to address water issues.

During my time in Singapore, I had the opportunity to participate in the Water



Lou Storino at a tour of Singapore's Sembcorp NEWater Plant, located on top of the Changi Water Reclamation Plant - Singapore

Leaders Summit, Water Convention, Water Expo and tours of the Changi Water Reclamation Plant and Sembcorp NEWater Plant.

SIWW focused on four key areas: integrated urban solutions, municipal water, industrial water and the future of water. During the conference, water

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utilities from around the world clearly expressed that having good governance and leadership, financial sustainability, community engagement and innovation are critical in securing water for the future.

Singapore can be viewed as a case study in combining good policies and management practices with the right technologies to address their concern for water scarcity. Singapore identified water as a major security threat since it currently imports a majority of its water from neighboring countries. Singapore's one water approach, with one agency addressing water, wastewater and stormwater, has streamlined their risk analysis for water issues. Singapore is addressing its water needs by building a system of water catchment to capture every drop of rainfall, constructing desalination plants, and upgrading to state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plants coupled with NEWater plants. The NEWater plant, located adjacent to the wastewater

treatment plant, utilizes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet disinfection to produce drinkable quality water that feeds their water reservoirs. Singapore also has a campaign to increase the awareness and value of water and to promote conservation amongst its citizens. This multi-tier approach is helping Singapore succeed in becoming water independent.

Attending SIWW offered me a global perspective of water-related issues. Although we may be in different parts of the world, water issues are much the same. The unique solutions we can implement as best practices to replicate across the globe are what is most important. "Water for All: Conserve, Value, Enjoy", is the slogan used by Singapore's Water Utility, PUB, and offers a good global perspective on the state of water.