



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Commissioner Spyropoulos addresses small business owners at Asian American Expo

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos addressed hopeful small business owners before they participated in a "Pitch Your Business" competition held at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago on June 30. Contestants described their businesses to funders in hopes of receiving investments in their businesses.

Commissioner Spyropoulos, who serves as the MWRD's Chairman of Finance, said that the competition offered an excellent exercise in formulating and expressing a business plan.

"It's important for anyone who is interested in starting a small business to develop a solid, realistic plan," said Commissioner Spyropoulos. "This plan will serve as a foundation for all of the responsibilities that come along with business ownership."

Expo event manager Shelly Ng said that there was record attendance this year. Participants attended programs such as "How to Grow your Small Business in a Tough Economy," "Business Financing," "Small Business Administration," and "Real Estate Trends and Investment Strategies." Many of the event's participants have the potential to become future vendors for the MWRD.



George Chunkau Mui, Global Business Consultant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, MWRD Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos and Shelly Ng, Asian American Business Expo organizer, spoke during the 2013 Asian American Business Expo held at Illinois Institute of Technology on June 29.

"The District is always looking for business partners on projects ranging from \$50,000 through \$5 million," said Vice President Barbara McGowan, chairman of the MWRD's Affirmative Action committee. "We have an active affirmative action program which works to ensure that minority, women, and small businesses are given an equitable opportunity to participate in construction and professional service contracts."

The MWRD's affirmative action program goals are to achieve 20 percent minority participation, 10 percent women-owned participation, and 10 percent small business enterprise participation in the agency's professional service and construction contracts.

Additional information about procurement opportunities can be found at www.mwr.org/

Our water environment, Take it personally.

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.