

MEDIA RELEASE

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Singapore hosts three international conferences on sustainable development

- *Singapore International Water Week explores sustainable solutions for the water industry*
- *World Cities Summit looks at public governance and sustainable urban development*
- *East Asia Summit's Conference on Liveable Cities examines best practices in addressing urbanisation and the environment in East Asian cities*

SINGAPORE (23 June 2008) – Some 5,000 senior government officials, policymakers, industry leaders, city planners, experts, practitioners and academics from more than 60 countries are converging at three major international conferences in Singapore this week.

Held for the first time as joint events, the conferences will be launched by Singapore's Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, who will deliver a keynote address on the challenges of sustainable development in cities. International leaders and experts on city development will network and share their experiences, success stories and new ideas. For the Singapore International Water Week, there will also be a 12,000 square metre exhibition space where countries and companies can exhibit the latest technologies and solutions to sustainable development and water management.

The Water Week (23 to 27 June) is a global platform for water solutions, allowing delegates and trade visitors to discuss the latest challenges, best practices and new technologies in the water industry.

The event, with the theme “Sustainable Water Solutions for Cities”, features the Water Leaders Summit, Water Convention, Water Expo and Business Forums, as well as the presentation of the first Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize for contributions in solving the world’s water crisis. A number of significant business deals and collaborations are expected to be announced by industry players on the sidelines of the Water Week, including several important MOUs to be signed between Singapore and various countries.

The World Cities Summit (23 to 25 June) is a practitioner-focused event that examines the challenges of urbanisation and effective practices in governance, urban planning, infrastructural development and environmental management to build “*Liveable and Vibrant Cities*”, which is the theme of the summit.

More than 700 high-level participants, including ministers, governors, city mayors and business leaders from 58 countries, in addition to representatives from international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), will be attending the World Cities Summit. The line-up of more than 60 speakers includes mayors from various cities, along with senior officials from United Nations agencies, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, which are also strategic partners for the event.

Recognising that cities in East Asia are witnessing some of the largest population growths in history, with a projected two million new dwellers in East Asian cities every month for the next 20 years, Singapore had, during the East Asia Summit in November 2007, committed to organising the East Asia Summit Conference on Liveable Cities (EAS LCC, 23 to 25 June).

This event will give mayors and governors from East Asian cities a platform to network and exchange best practices and expertise in developing sustainable and ecologically friendly cities. Promoting the ability of city authorities to judiciously plan the development of their cities so that urbanisation and growth can be sustained will go a long way towards complementing the top-down target-setting approach in the global fight against climate change (e.g. in the reduction of carbon emissions).

Mr Michael Toh, General Manager of the Singapore International Water Week, said: “Half the world’s population already lives in cities and as this trend continues, we are going to see

even more pressure on our limited water resources. By holding the Singapore International Water Week, World Cities Summit and East Asia Summit Conference on Liveable Cities together, we are turning the spotlight on the issues of urbanisation and resource management, and getting some of the key decision-makers in these fields together to think about solutions and explore avenues for cooperation.”

Mr Jimmy Lau, Managing Director of Singapore Airshow & Events Pte Ltd (SAe), co-organisers and event managers of the Singapore International Water Week, said: “The inaugural Singapore International Water Week is a great opportunity for leaders and industry players to network and learn more about best practices in the water industry. The Water Expo complements this event and brings together more than 350 participants from some 40 countries, covering 12,000 square metres of exhibition space.”

On the World Cities Summit, Mr Tan Tee How, Permanent Secretary, Singapore’s Ministry of National Development, said: “The theme for the inaugural summit is 'Liveable and Vibrant Cities'. We are bringing together city mayors, senior government officials, experts and business leaders from 58 countries. It is a platform for decision makers, practitioners and experts from around the world to share experiences, exchange ideas and explore collaborations on the many challenges that cities face.”

On the decision to host three summits simultaneously, he said: “We hope that this mega three-in-one event will be the start of more exchanges and learning even as we work at finding innovative solutions to the key challenges facing cities the world over. This is especially pertinent for the East Asian cities which are experiencing rapid and significant population growth and economic development.”

Said Mr Chan Heng Kee, Dean and Chief Executive Officer of the Civil Service College, a co-organiser of the WCS: “Apart from plenary sessions where city mayors and leaders from governments, international organisations and private sector companies share the broader perspectives, there will be in-depth presentations and discussions among practitioners in specific areas including urban planning and conservation, land transportation, sustainability in the built environment, and the design and management of green spaces. In addition, there will be site visits to give the delegates an opportunity to see how some of these challenges are being dealt with in Singapore.”

Highlights of the Singapore International Water Week include:

- The Water Leaders Summit, chaired by Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh, who is also chairman of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum Governing Council. The summit brings together more than 280 decision-makers from governments, utilities providers and water companies worldwide.
- The Water Convention, which focuses on technology and practical delivery, with more than 600 delegates, including experts from industry and academia, exchanging ideas on the latest advancements and applications.
- The Water Expo, a major tradeshow for buyers and sellers of water technologies and solutions, with 350 international exhibitors from more than 40 countries in a gross exhibition space of 12,000 square metres (nett space of 5,000 square metres).
- Seven business forums, which are designed as exclusive networking sessions that will introduce participants to senior government officials and potential business partners in Australia, China, Europe, India, Japan, the Middle East and South-east Asia.
- The Water Festival, with events and water-based activities and performances organised for the public at Marina Bay throughout Water Week.
- The presentation of the inaugural Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize to Dr Andrew Benedek, a Canadian researcher and successful technopreneur who pioneered the development of low-pressure membranes, which have lowered the cost of water purification. As the winner of this prestigious international award, Dr Benedek will receive a cheque for S\$300,000, a gold medallion and a certificate. The award ceremony features a dialogue with Singapore's Minister Mentor, Mr Lee Kuan Yew.
- A distinguished line-up of speakers that includes Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong; HE Dr Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water, UAE; Ms Lindiwe Benedicta Hendricks, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa; and Mr Yoshiro Mori, President of the Japan Water Forum and the former Japanese Prime Minister.

Highlights of the World Cities Summit include:

- Presentations and talks featuring city mayors/ex-mayors including Mr John So, Mayor of Melbourne, Mr Hiroshi Nakada, Mayor of Yokohama, Ms Kerry Prendergast, Mayor of Wellington, and Mr Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogota; as well as leaders from international organisations and private sector companies, including Mr Haruhiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development Bank, Mr James Adams, Vice President, East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank, and Mr Jim Clifton, Chairman and CEO of the Gallup Organisation.
- Breakout sessions focusing on key topics on sustainable development, including urban planning and conservation, solid waste management, land transportation, sustainability in the built environment, and the design and management of green spaces.
- Site visits to Singapore's urban planning and environmental initiatives, including the Urban Redevelopment Authority's City Gallery; the National Environment Agency's Pulau Semakau Landfill, a solid waste management area that preserves Singapore's natural heritage; the Land Transport Authority's traffic nerve centre and its Electronic Road Pricing system, the world's first; the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, for a look at biodiversity and green spaces in a city; a public housing estate and the Building Construction Authority Academy Gallery, to examine sustainability in the built environment; and One-North, an innovation and research hub where international scientists, researchers and technopreneurs live, work and learn.
- Other events being held in conjunction with the summit are:
 - The Gallup Organisation's inaugural Global Behavioural Economics Forum on 26 June 2008, which explores how this new science can be employed in policymaking, urban planning and society-building. The keynote speaker is 2002 Nobel Prize winner (Economics) Daniel Kahneman.
 - In its capacity as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, the Singapore Health Promotion Board is organising a sharing session on 23 June 2008, on "Healthy Cities for a Sustainable Future", to

highlight the role mayors, governments and NGOs can play in building healthy communities.

Highlights of the East Asia Summit Conference on Liveable Cities include:

Top-level officials including governors and mayors will represent more than 30 EAS cities in a roundtable discussion chaired by Singapore's Minister for National Development, Mr Mah Bow Tan. This session will allow cities to share challenges, best practices and expertise in developing sustainable and ecologically friendly cities as part of the global effort against climate change.

About the Singapore International Water Week

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.

The inaugural Water Week, to be held from 23 to 27 June at Suntec Singapore, will centre on the theme "Sustainable Water Solutions for Cities". Some 5,000 speakers and delegates are attending this event to discuss latest challenges, best practices and new technologies in the water industry. The annual event features the Water Leaders Summit, Water Convention, Water Expo, Business Forums and Water Festival, as well as the presentation of the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize for innovative contributions in solving the world's water problems.

The first winner of this prestigious international award is Dr Andrew Benedek, a Canadian researcher and successful technopreneur, who will be delivering the Singapore Water Lecture during the Water Week. In addition, a number of significant business deals and collaborations are expected to be announced by industry players on the sidelines of the Water Week, including several important MOUs to be signed between Singapore and various countries regionally and internationally.

For more information, log onto www.siww.com.sg

About the World Cities Summit

The World Cities Summit is a premier international conference on public governance and the sustainable development of cities. The inaugural summit, which takes place in Singapore from 23 to 25 June 2008, focuses on the theme “Liveable and Vibrant Cities”. It brings together city leaders, senior government officials, experts and business leaders to discuss the challenges of urbanisation and best practices in effective governance, urban planning, infrastructural development, environmental sustainability, quality-of-life issues and economic competitiveness. World Cities Summit 2008 is organised by the Ministry of National Development, the Civil Service College and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

More information can be found at www.worldcities.com.sg