Water Reuse and Desalination to Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change on Water Scarcity

How Yong Ng (黄浩勇)

Professor, Beijing Normal University Adjunct Professor, National University of Singapore

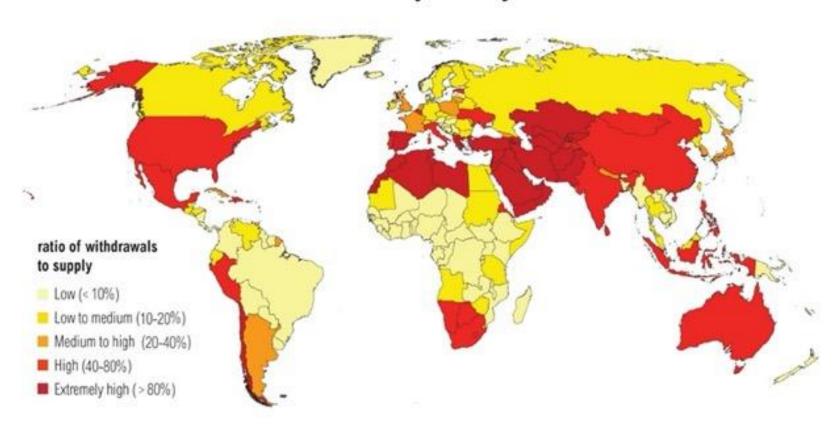
新加坡工程院院士



Email: howyongng@nus.edu.sg huanghy@bnu.edu.cn

Predicted global water deficit of 40% by 2040 under the Business-As-Usual scenario (2030 WRG)

Water Stress by Country: 2040



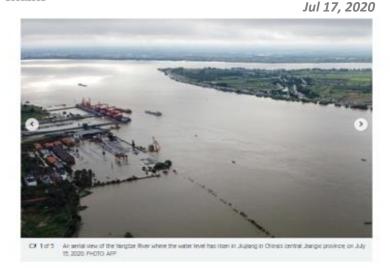
NOTE: Projections are based on a business-as-usual scenario using SSP2 and RCP8.5.

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/extreme-water-shortages-are-expected-to-hit-these-countries-by-2040/



Impact of Climate Change - Recent Flooding Events

China's Wuhan declares red alert as floods disrupt supply chains



O PUBLISHED JUL 17, 2020, 123 PM SST | UPDATED JUL 17, 2020, 3-33 PM



THESTRAITSTIMES

SHANGHAI (REUTERS) - Large parts of central and eastern China were reeling on Priday (July 17) from the worst floods in decades, as disruption mounted for key supply chains, including crucial personal protective equipment for fighting the coronavirus, and economic damage ruled up.

The central Chinese city of Wohan and the provinces of Anlani, Jiangxi and Zhejiang declared red alerts on Friday as heavy rain swelled rivers and lakes.

Withan, on the banks of the Yangrue River where the novel coronavirus emerged late last year, warmed residents to take procautions as water levels fast approached their maximum, guaranteed safety level.

THE STRAITS TIMES

flooding

Peninsular Malaysia hit by '1-in-100year' rainfall, govt says amid severe

Dec 20, 2021



CD 124 Floods wrested hexic to the states Klang Valley, with many areas submerged in water, income proximum, occasionally



KUALA LUMPUR - The widespread flooding seen in many states in Malaysia in the last three days was caused by one-in-a-100-year heavy rainfall, a senior official at the country's Environment and Water Ministry said on Sunday (Dec 19).

"The annual rainfall in Kuala Lumpur is 2,400mm and this means yesterday's (Saturday's) rainfall exceeded the average rainfall for a mouth. It is something beyond expectations and only occurs once every 100 years," the ministry's secretary-general Zaini Ujang told a news conference. He was referring to rainfall as measured by a rain gauge.

Referring to measuring stations around Selangor-KL, he said as quoted by Bernama, that the Sentul station recorded the highest at 363mm, Gombak (247mm), Jinjang

BICNEWS

Climate change: Pakistan floods 'likely' made worse by warming



Global warming is likely to have played a role in the devastating floods that hit Pakistan, say scientists.

Researchers from the World Weather Attribution group say climate change may have increased the intensity of rainfall.

However there were many uncertainties in the results, so the team were unable to quantify the scale of the impact.

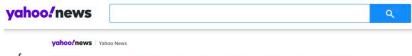
The scientists believe there's roughly a 1% chance of such an event happening in any coming year.

- · Pakistan dengue cases soaring after record floods
- · Going green could save world 'trillions' study
- · Satellites now get full-year view of Arctic sea-ice

In the two months since flooding began in Pakistan, tens of millions of people have been affected, with around 1,500 dying because of the rising waters.

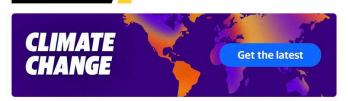
The intensity of the downpours saw the river Indus burst its banks, while landslides

Impact of Climate Change – Severe Water Shortage Events



'Moment of reckoning:' Federal official warns of Colorado River water supply cuts





The Colorado River's reservoirs have diminished to the point that significant cuts to the water supplied to the seven states that rely on it will be necessary next year, a federal official warned Tuesday.

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee maintaining "critical levels" at the largest reservoirs in the United States — Lake Mead and Lake Powell — will require large reductions in water deliveries.

"A warmer, drier West is what we are seeing today," she said at a hearing. "And the challenges we are seeing today are unlike anything we have seen in our history."



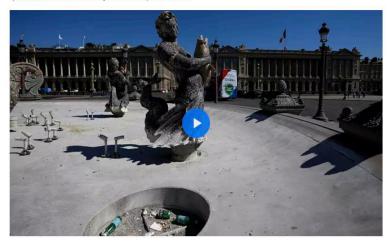
Home > News > World > Drought and heatwaves: How is Europe tackling unprecedented water shortages?

WORLD NEWS

Drought and heatwaves: How is Europe tackling unprecedented water shortages?

COMMENTS

By Richard Good & Alasdair Sandford & Joshua Askew • Updated: 09/08/2022



The fountains of Concorde plaza are empty in Paris, France, as Europe is under an extreme heat wave, Aug. 3, 2022. - Copyright AP Photos Franco

f f recorl Soaring temperatures and a conspicuous lack of rainfall have left many European countries grappling with historic droughts this summer.

This is having wide-reaching effects across the region, significantly impacting agriculture, energy production and water supplies.

But how is each European country being affected and what are local authorities doing to combat the problems caused by these extreme temperatures?

France

The French government has set up a crisis team to tackle a historic drought that has left more than 100 municipalities short of drinking water.

Trucks are taking water to those areas as "there is nothing left in the pipes", said Christophe Béchu, the country's minister for ecological transition.

我国近70%城市群、65%的粮食主产区缺 水问题突出



关注

4月8日,国新办举行2022年水利工程建设情况国务院政策例行吹风会。上游新闻 (报料邮箱: cnshangyou@163.com) 记者从吹风会上获悉,我国水资源空间分布 与人口经济布局、国土空间利用格局不匹配的问题依然没有得到有效解决,还有近 70%的城市群、90%以上的能源基地、65%的粮食主产区缺水问题突出。



▲水利部副部长魏山忠。图片来源/国新网

水利部副部长魏山忠表示,我国水资源的时空分布极不均衡,这可能是中国水资源最大的特点。解决时间分布不均的问题,靠修水库调蓄。解决空间分布不均,靠跨流域、跨区域引调水,把水多的地方引到水少的地方。总的来看,我们国家水资源空间分布与人口经济布局、国土空间利用格局不匹配的问题依然没有得到有效解决,我们还有近70%的城市群、90%以上的能源基地、65%的粮食主产区缺水问题突出,已经成为这些区域发展的瓶颈,难以满足经济社会高质量发展的要求。

魏山忠介绍 今年推进南水北调后续工程高质量发展 目前 东中线一期工程已经

Climate Change is Water Change

- Too Much
- Too Little
- Wrong Timing
- Wrong Form
- Wrong Quality



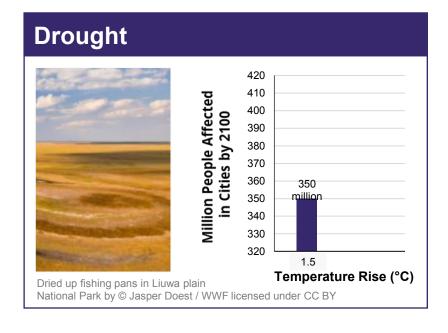
Untitled by © Marcio James / WWF–Brazil licensed under CC BY



Untitled by © Marcio James / WWF–Brazil licensed under CC BY



Melting ice, Antarctica by © Wim van Passel / WWF licensed under CC BY



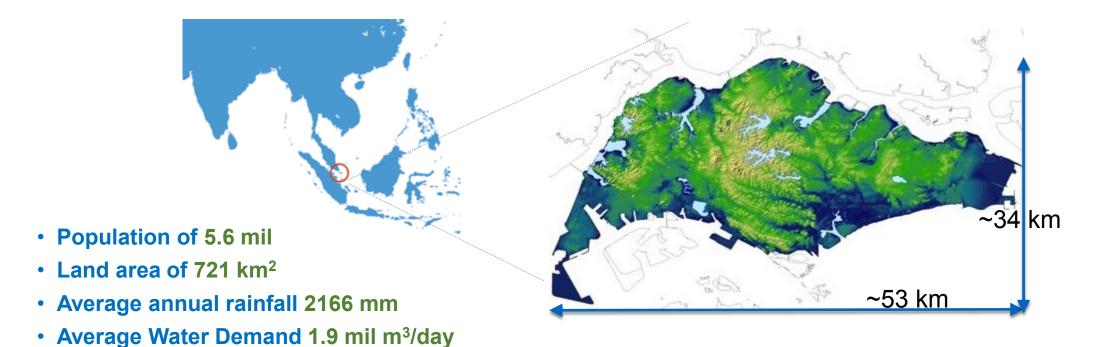


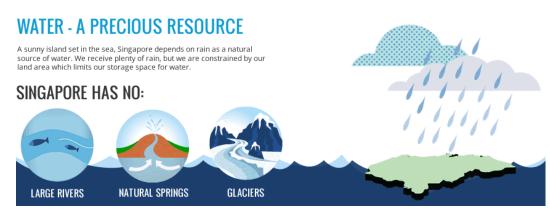
How to resolve challenges to "Too Little" and "Wrong Quality"?

- Practice conservation
- Increase catchment Increase water supply through alternative routes
 - Water Reuse and Desalination
- Enhance water quality through treatment processes



Singapore: A Small Island State

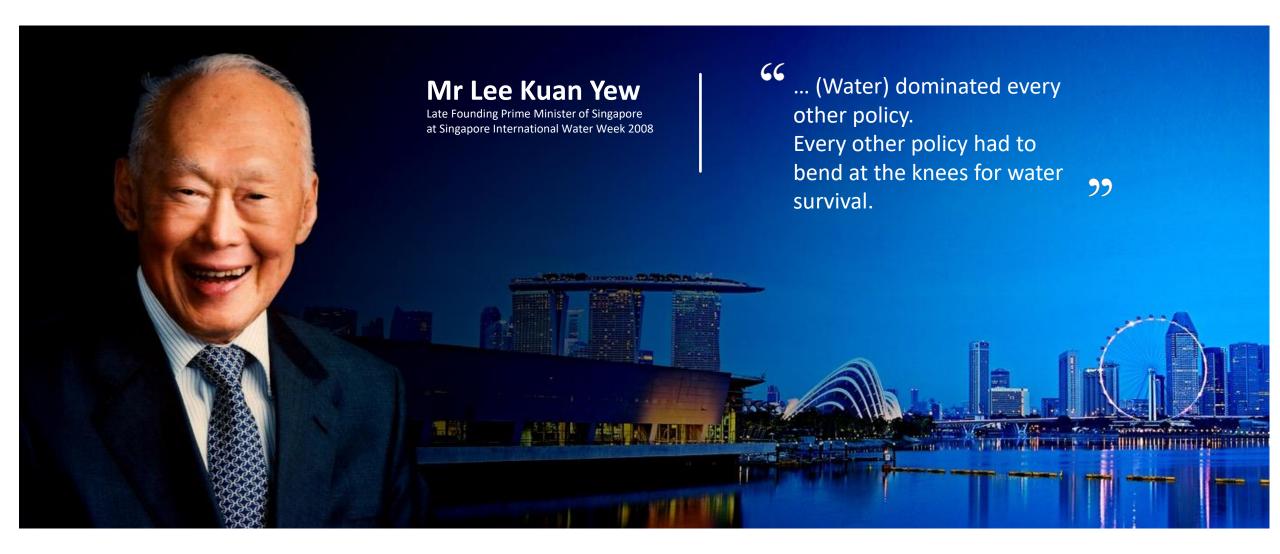




Singapore was ranked first among the countries at the highest risk of high water stress in 2040 (source: World Resources Institute 2015 Report)



Water is a national priority



Climate Change on Major Asian Cities: Singapore

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SINGAPORE

Singapore is a low-lying, densely-populated tropical island city-state. We are vulnerable to the effects of climate change and variability. Three examples of Singapore experiencing the effects of climate change and variability are shown on the right.

While natural climate variability may have played a part in these recent events, extreme conditions are likely to become more intense and frequent due to climate change. It is therefore important for Singapore to prepare for climate change.

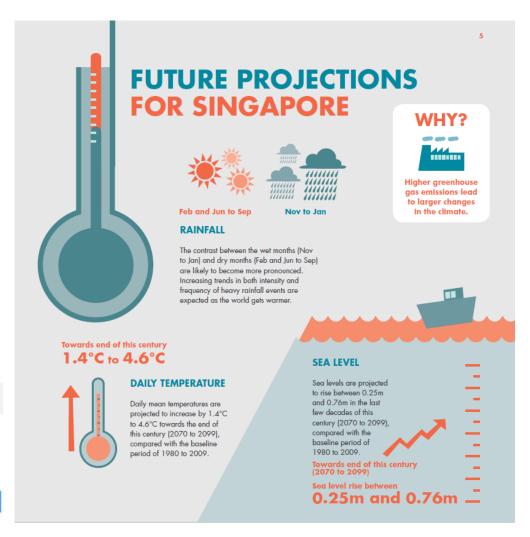


Understanding Climate Change

The Issue

The build-up of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere has trapped more heat, resulting in a warmer planet.

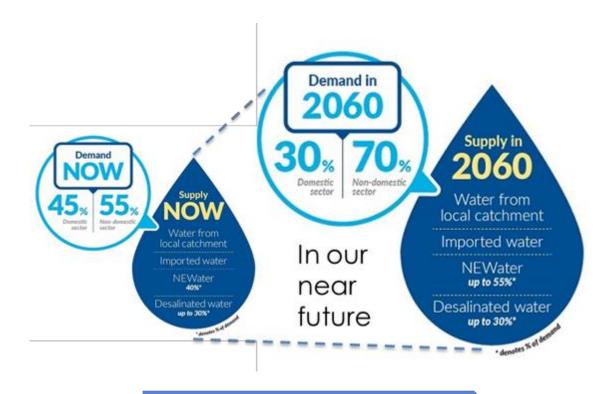
Temperatures in Singapore have risen by 0.25°C per decade from 1948 to 2015, while 2016 and 2019 were the hottest years recorded thus far. A warmer climate leads to the thermal expansion of the sea and melting of glaciers and ice caps, which lead to rising sea levels, threatening our island nation. There may also be more frequent extreme weather events.



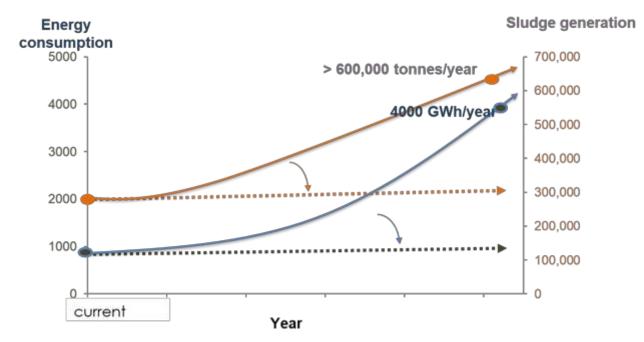
MEWR and MND (2016). Singapore's Climate Action Plan: A Climate-Resilient Singapore, For a Sustainable Future: https://www.mnd.gov.sg/docs/default-source/mnd-documents/publications-documents/climate-action-plan---for-a-sustainable-future.pdf

MEWR (2022). Climate Change: https://www.mse.gov.sg/policies/climate-change

Singapore's Water Demand – Now and the Future



Long Term Goal



Meet water demand in 2060 at current energy & sludge footprint

Long Term Goal



Sustainable water solutions require coherent management from the different aspects

Water Treatment 水处理 River Management & Rehabilitation 河流管理&修复

Wastewater Treatment 废水处理

Sanitation 卫生设备

Policy & Regulations 政策 & 法规 Water Reclamation 水再利用

Catchment Management 流域管理

Desalination 海水淡化 Resource Recovery 资源回收

And many more...还有更多…



3 Key Strategies in Providing Good Water

Capture every drop of water

As a city-state with scarce land, we have to make every drop of rain count





Reuse water
endlessly

Water can always be reclaimed and retreated

so that it can be used again

3

Desalinate seawater

As an island surrounded by the sea, desalination is a viable and attractive option for Singapore

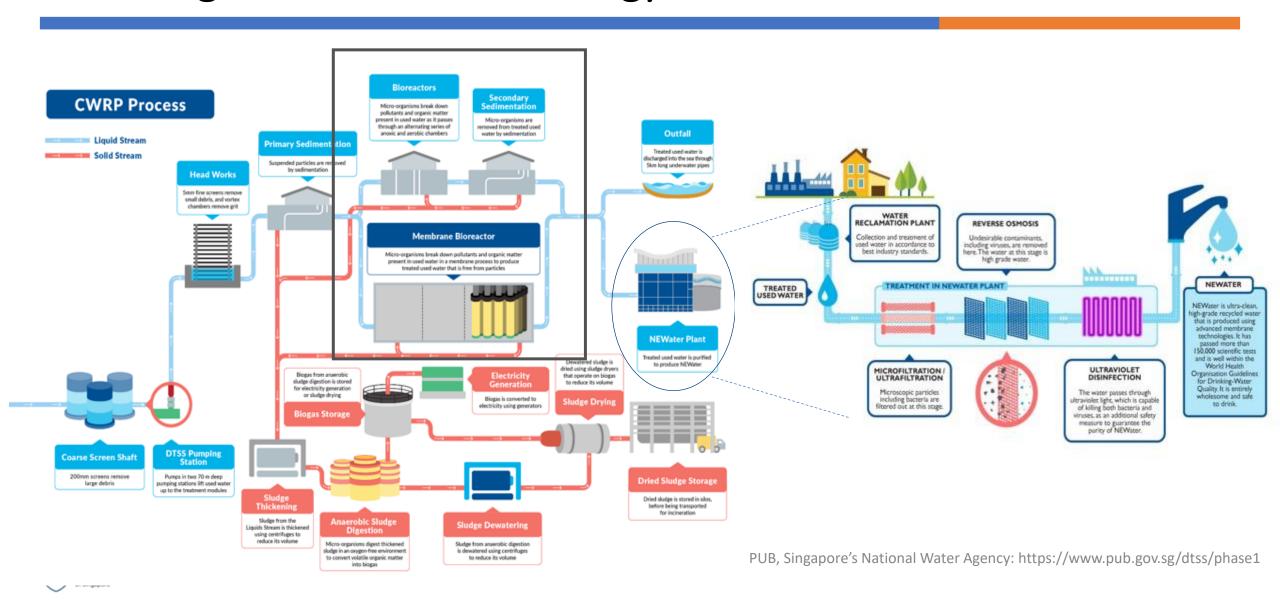






Water Reuse

Utilizing Membrane Technology for Water Reclamation



Pilot-scale Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) At Short SRT





Field Trial of Pilot Aerobic MBRs at Short SRT (Project funded by PUB Singapore)

- To verify reduction in energy consumption of MBR for new Tuas WRP (800,000 m³/d)

- Biological reaction and biomass separation within the same compartment.
- Able to achieve high MLSS concentration (up to 16 g/L).
- Produces permeate of high quality:
 - High pollutant removals (> 95% COD removal & 97% nitrification efficiencies).
 - Free from suspended solids
 - Ability to remove large pathogens such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia.

Membrane Technology for Water Reclamation

MBR Using Ceramic Membranes

- Offers higher mechanical, stability, relatively narrow membrane pore size distribution, and higher chemical stability
- Requires more performance data for its wider application

Average MBR filtrate quality for Ceramic MBR Case Studies (extracted from Koh et al., 2017)

Case studies	Ulu Pandan Pilot (Noguichi et al., 2010)	Jurong Demo (Kekre et al. 2015)	Changi MBR Retrofit
Evaluation period	May – Oct 12	Nov – Jan 15	Dec 16 – Jan 17
Turbidity, NTU	0.1	0.19	0.04 (<0.1 max)
Total coliform (CFU/100 ml)	<1	<1	1.3
TOC (mg/L)	6.0	-	3.5
NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	<0.1	1.6	0.18 (<0.8 max)
рН	6.7	7.4	6.7

 The pilot to full scale plants showed production of high filtrate quality for industrial reuse or feed to further advanced water reclamation processes.

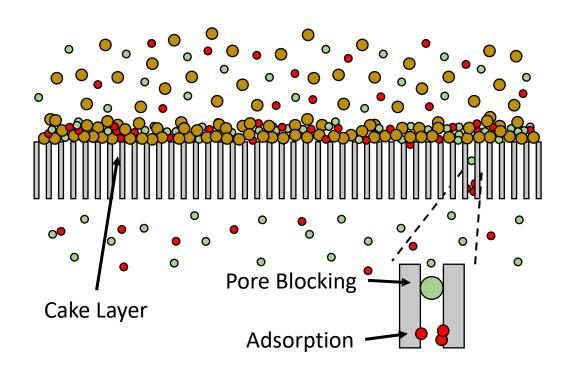


Full-scale flat sheet ceramic membrane at Changi WRP

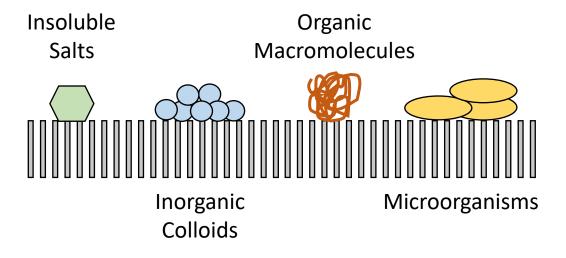
 Full scale Changi MBR could meet the guarantee calculated specific energy value of <0.5 kW/h per m³ of product water (operated at 10 days SRT) with optimized chemical cleaning regime and operating parameters.

Membrane Fouling – Types And Causes





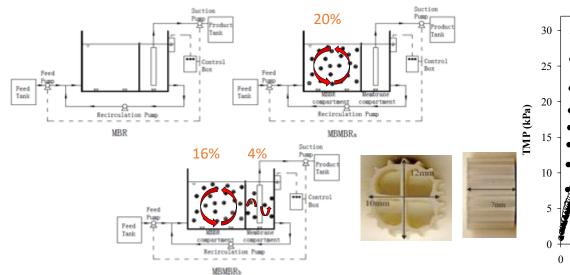
Types of Membrane Fouling

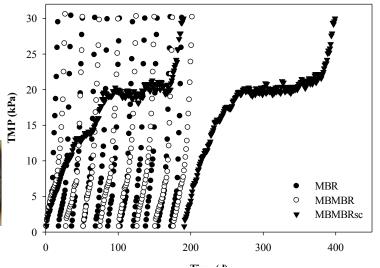


Causes of Membrane Fouling

Membrane fouling is inevitable! Fouling control is important

Physical Methods For Fouling Control – MBMBR





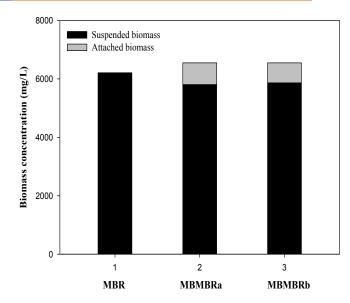
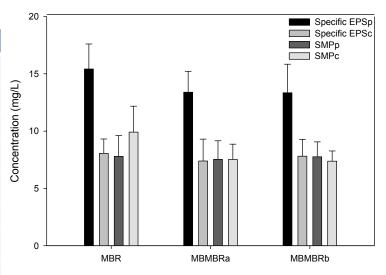


Table 1. Operating conditions of the MBR and the MBMBR.

Parameter			
Total volume (L)	12.8		
HRT (h)	8		
SRT (d)	20		
Constant flux (LMH)	20		
Organic loading (kg COD m ⁻³ day ⁻¹)	1.25 (±0.19)		
Dissolved Oxygen (mg L ⁻¹)	3.14 (±1.04)		
Temperature (°C)	25-30		
рН	6.9-7.1		



C. Fu et al. 2016, J. Membr. Sci. 499, 134-142

- MBR took about 17 d; MBMBRa took 25 d to reach a TMP of 30 kPa.
- TMP of the MBMBRb increased gradually in the first 80 d and stabled at pressure of 20 kPa for over 90 d and then rise to 30 kPa after 190 d.
- Lower fouling in MBMBR attributed to:
 - Lower suspended biomass in MBMBR.
 - Lower concentration of SMPc (31.8%).

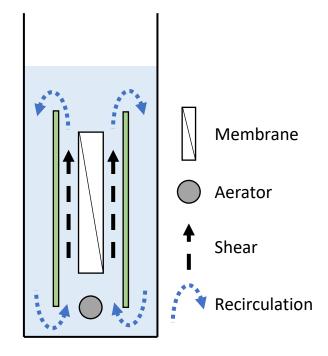
Physical Methods For Fouling Control – Vibrating MBR

Pressure Direction Flow Direction Permeate

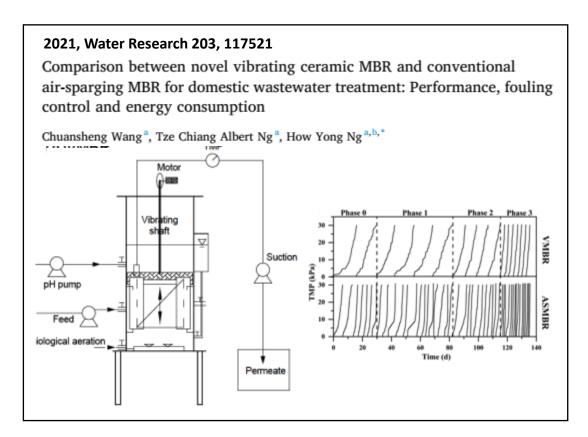
Crossflow Filtration

Provision of shear/movement along membrane surface to minimise foulant attachment

Using air/biogas to provide shear



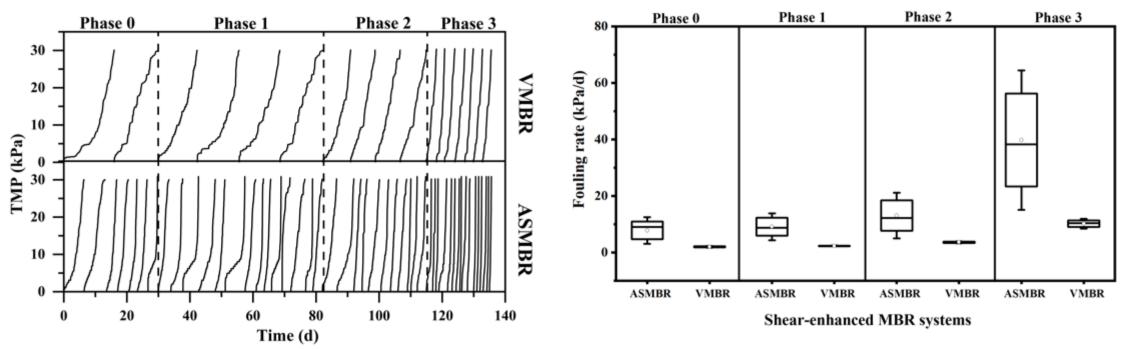
Simplified MBR Schematic



Vibrating/Rotating Membrane Module

Results — Fouling Control

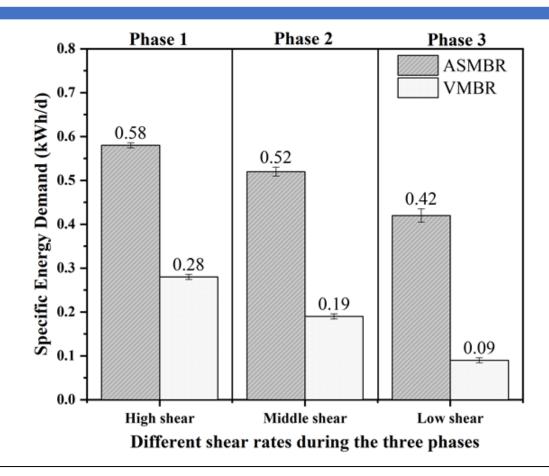




- TMP profiles (left) and fouling rates (right) of the VMBR and ASMBR since start-up
- 1) Shear stress↓ TMP rise ↑: higher shear stress membrane fouling ↓.
- 2) Fouling rates: 2.31 kPa/d to 3.59 kPa/d and 10.15 kPa/d in VMBR << 9.07 kPa/d to 13.04 kPa/d and 39.76 kPa/d in ASMBR in Phase 1, 2, 3.
- 3) Better fouling control in VMBR, mainly retarding membrane fouling in the initial stage (i.e., low-TMP of <10 kPa).



Results — Specific Energy Demand



Specific energy demand (SED) of air-sparging MBR (ASMBR) (0.42-0.58kWh/d) was much higher than vibrating MBR(VMBR) (0.09-0.28 kWh/d). At similar shear stress, SED of ASMBR was around 2 to 4 times as VMBR.

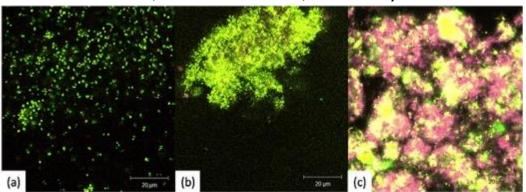
Biological Methods for Fouling Control



Foulants from biological treatment processes are biological (microorganisms) and organic compounds

30 (b)

Green – Bacteria; Yellow – Protein; Red - Polysaccharide



Initial Fouling Mid-stage Fouling Mature Fouling (Research Group's unpublished data)

Biofouling – formation of biofilm, a living community of microbes, supported by an organic architecture



Quorum Quenching MBR St QQ Beads (2015, Journal of Membrane Science 283, 220)

a EBAnMBR QQAnMBR

2020, Water Research 169, 115251

Feasibility of isolated novel facultative quorum quenching consortiums for fouling control in an AnMBR

Boyan Xu a, Tze Chiang Albert Ng a, Shujuan Huang a, Xueqing Shi b, How Yong Ng a, G. a

First example of facultative QQ consortium used in lab-scale Anaerobic MBR

2020, Water Research 179, 115850

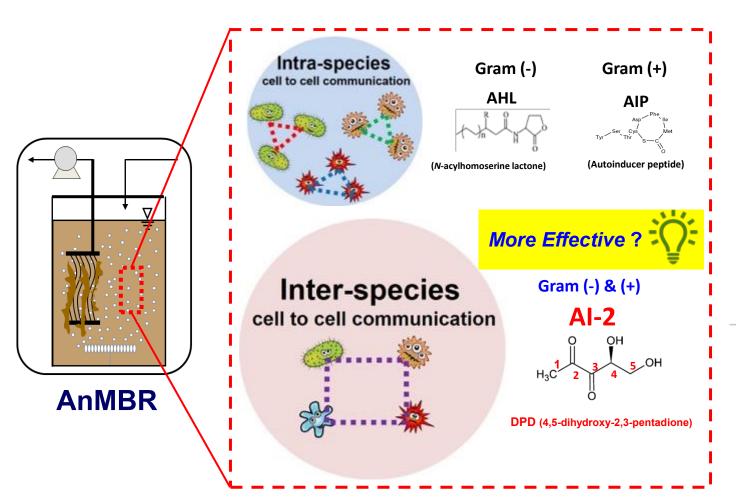
Effect of quorum quenching on EPS and size-fractioned particles and organics in anaerobic membrane bioreactor for domestic wastewater treatment

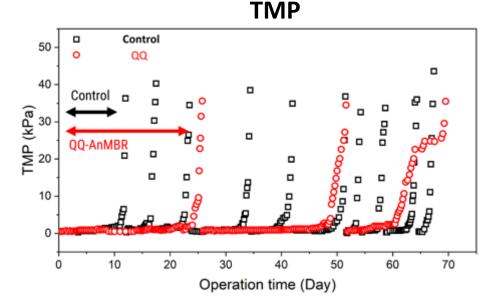
Boyan Xu a, Tze Chiang Albert Ng a, Shujuan Huang a, How Yong Ng a, b, a

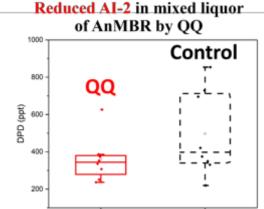
- QQ extended membrane operation service period by 39-135%
 - QQ reduces protein and polysaccharide concentrations



A New Paradigm Shift: From Intraspecific To Interspecific Regulation Of Quorum Sensing in AnMBR







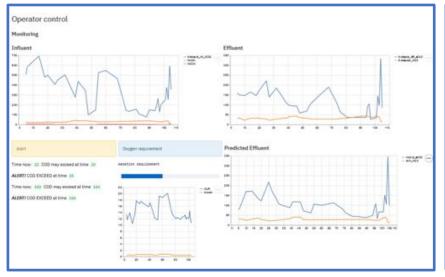
Membrane fouling cycles:

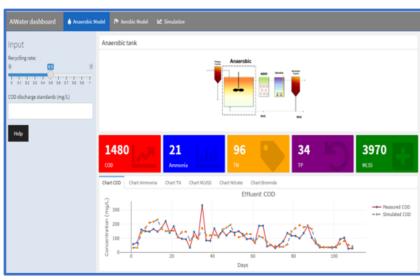
Control: 6.17 d QQ: 22.95 d

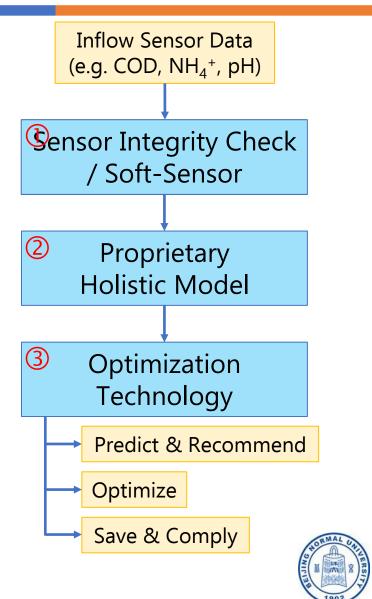
Fouling is reduced by3.2 times (p<0.05)

Reduction of Energy and Chemical Consumption in Wastewater Treatment

- > Combining biological process equations, big data models and AI optimization techniques to predict effluent quality
- ➤ Reduction of energy cost of used water treatment plants through process optimisation by up to 30%.







Main Challenges to be Resolved by Digital WWTPs

Common Challenges of WWTPs



Personnel management



Operation and maintenance management



Energy management



Process decision-making



How can the management level of WWTPs be comprehensively improved?



- Production efficiency needs further improvement, and technical capabilities must be continuously strengthened.
- Aging personnel.

- There are various types of plant equipment and systems, and the daily operation and maintenance management capabilities need further improvement.
- With the goal of carbon reduction and cost savings, energy conservation and consumption reduction have important priorities.
- The source water quality fluctuates, and process operation is unstable.
 Through big data analysis and mining, process stability can be improved.
- Modeling enables the use of consumables based on demand, reducing operational costs.
- The integrated management platform is a key component in the development of smart WWTPs and the most effective way to ensure the standardized operation of WWTPs while improving energy efficiency.
- It can automate WWTPs, integrate standardization achievements, and provide timely information for operators, helping WWTPs to achieve the goal of "safety, stability, and efficiency".



Digital, the digital twin

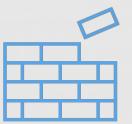






Good data







Good model

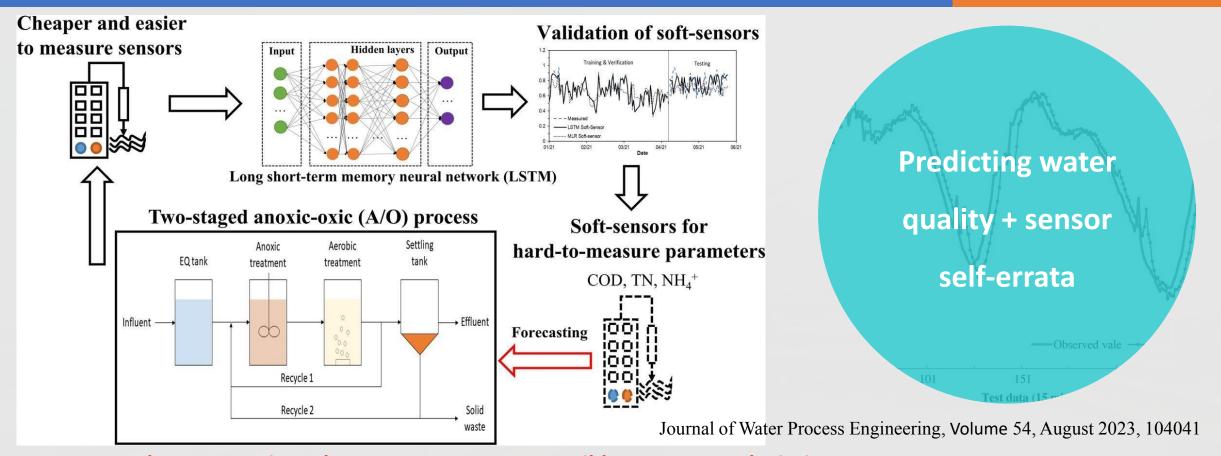








Machine Learning Modeling



Sensors, such as ammonia and COD sensors, are susceptible to accuracy deviations.

- LSTM Soft Sensor Development: By utilizing low-cost sensor data—such as DO, redox potential, and SS—LSTM-based soft sensors can be developed for A/O wastewater treatment processes to monitor key parameters such as COD, NH_4^+ , and TN.
- **Model optimization**: Pearson correlation analysis is used to determine the input features, optimize the lookback period, and enhance prediction accuracy.
- Cost-effectiveness: LSTM soft sensors outperform multiple linear regression models in prediction efficiency and accuracy, thereby reducing equipment costs for WWTPs.

Comparison of Models



Advantage: Predictions are highly accurate under preset conditions

Limitations: Black Box models will fail without preset conditions

Advantage: Able to optimize the operation of the treatment plant

Limitations: Extensive calibration of kinetic parameters is required; Lowest accuracy of all 3 types of models

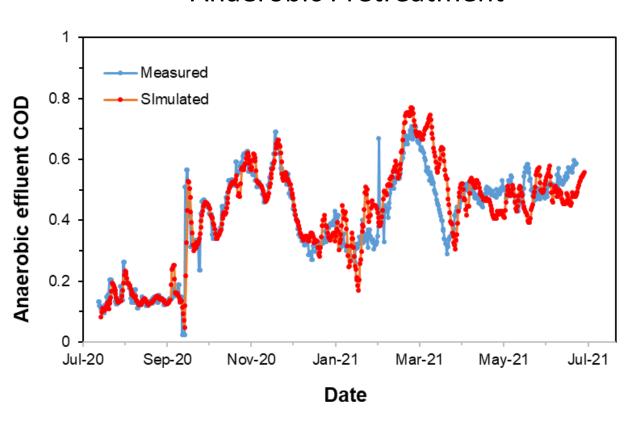
Advantages: More stable and accurate than pure machine learning models

Less calibration is required compared to mechanistic models

Full-Scale Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant



Anaerobic Pretreatment



	Results
Mean average Percentage error (%)	13.8
Correlation	0.87

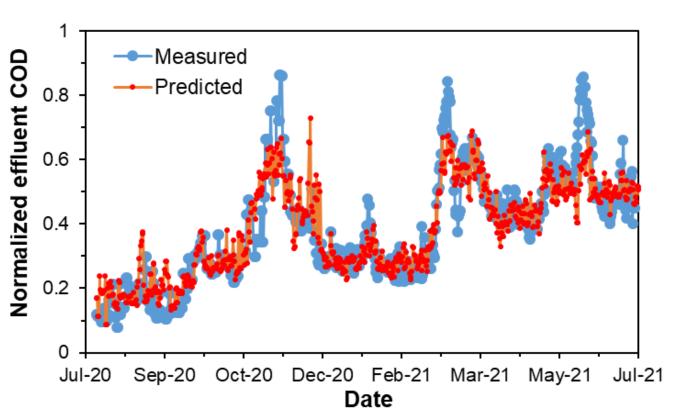
- Varying industrial characteristics resulted in differing performance of anaerobic treatment.
- The model accurately capture this trend.

Full-Scale Industrial Wastewater Treatment



Plant



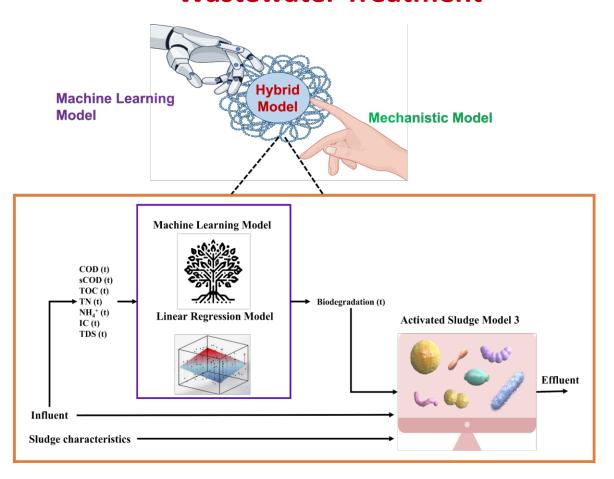


	Results
Mean average Percentage error (%)	13.1
Correlation	0.82

- Washout from anaerobic put stress on oxic reactor.
- Early alert system enables operators to initiate backup measures promptly.
- Ensuring discharge limits are met.
- Could utilize to increase the throughput of the WWTP.

Hybrid Model

Hybrid Model used for Petrochemical Wastewater Treatment



Motivation:

• Traditional models show high error (31–47%) & low correlation (0.47–0.50) in predicting treatment performance

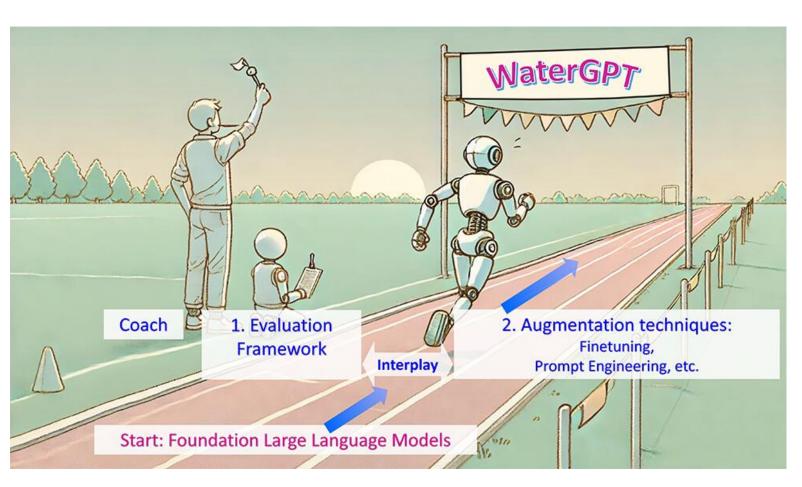
Model Development:

- Hybrid model integrates Machine Learning (MLR, Decision Forest) with Activated Sludge Model (ASM3)
- Validated using petrochemical wastewater with different compositions

Results:

- DF-ASM3 outperforms MLR-ASM3 with lower error (<25%) & higher correlation (>0.7) on COD, MLSS, nitrate predictions
- Hybrid model improves accuracy and reduces biodegradation testing workload

Journal of Water Process Engineering, Volume 65, August 2024, 105888



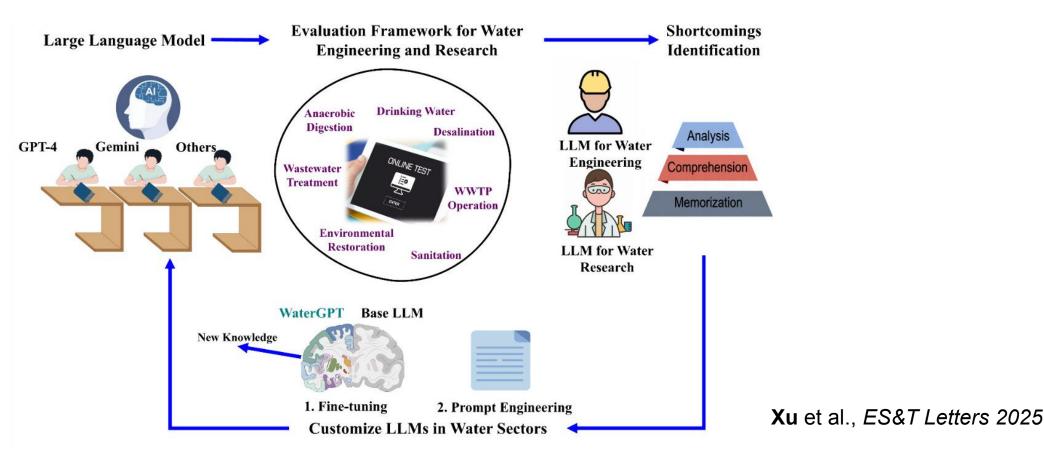
Xu et al., ES&T Letters 2025

Growing need for specialized LLMs in water knowledge tasks — urgent & essential

- •Question: How trustworthy are foundational models (e.g., GPT-3.5) for water tasks?
- •Safety-critical nature of water sectors demands robust evaluation frameworks of LLMs to:
- **a.** Identify and mitigate risks
- **b.** Track progress accurately

Key considerations:

- **a.** Which water engineering and research areas can directly benefit from foundational models?
- **b.** If gaps exist, how to improve via fine-tuning on specialized datasets?



- We developed WaterER, an **evaluation suite** to assess various LLMs on diverse water knowledge tasks in engineering and research.
- Testing eight foundational models revealed that they lag behind human water expert professionals.
- To enhance performance, we applied **prompt engineering** and **fine-tuned** the Llama3-8B model into **WaterGPT**, advancing its knowledge capabilities in the water domain.

Table S1. Statistics of WaterER. ←

4	Categoryċ	Denotation←	# Questions	Sources↩
	Technical Book of Wastewater Treatment	337377E/1	500€	Water Environment
	Fundamentals \triangleleft	WWTF₽		Federation ^{1, 2} ←
Water	Examination for Certificate of Registered		263↩	https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/
Water Engineering←	Environmental Protection Engineer of the	ECREPE↩		zhengceku/2023-
	People's Republic of China (2023) ←			<u>01/20/content</u> _5738275.htm
	Examination from Water Operator Practice	WORE	100←³	https://waternuggets.com/wat
	Tests from Water Nuggets ←	WOPT₽		er-operator-practice-tests/←
Water Research<□	In terms of topics←			
	Treatment processes for wastewaters←	WasteW←	30←	ScienceDirect€
	Environmental restoration←	ER←	30←	ScienceDirect€
	Drinking water treatment←	<u>DrinkW</u> ←	30←	ScienceDirect€
	Sanitation←	SA←	30↩	ScienceDirect€
	Anaerobic digestion and waste	4D/1	30←	Gairman Birratel
	management⊲	AD←		ScienceDirect←
	Contaminants and related water quality	Contaminant←	30←	ScienceDirect←
	monitoring and assessment←	Contaminant∈		

Task Categorization for LLMs Evaluation

Two task groups:

Engineering tasks

- ✓ Wastewater Treatment Fundamentals (500 Qs, WWTF)
- ✓ China Registered Environmental Protection Engineer Exam (263 Qs, ECREPE)
- ✓ Water Operator Practice Tests (100 Qs, WOPT)
- •Research tasks 180 questions from 6 key topics (30 Qs each) sourced from 2024 journal keyword searches:
- ✓ Wastewater treatment processes (WasteW)
- ✓ Environmental restoration (ER)
- ✓ Drinking water treatment (DrinkingW)
- ✓ Sanitation (SA)
- ✓ Anaerobic digestion & waste management (AD)
- ✓ Contaminants & water quality monitoring (Contaminant)

Name	Creator	Size	Launch time	Source types
GPT-4 (gpt-4-0613)	OpenAI	Unknown	Mar-23	Closed source
GPT-3.5-turbo (gpt-3.5-turbo-0125)	OpenAI	~175B	Nov-22	Closed source
Gemini (Gemini-1.0 pro)	Google	Unknown	Dec-23	Closed source
GLM (GLM-4)	Tsinghua	Unknown	Sep-23	Closed source
ERNIE Bot (ernie-4.0-8k-0329)	Baidu	Unknown	Oct-23	Closed source
Qwen (qwen-max-0428)	Alibaba Cloud	Unknown	Aug-23	Closed source
Llama3-8B (Meta-Llama-3-8B)	Meta	8B	Apr-24	Open source
Llama3-70B (Meta-Llama-3-70B)	Meta	70B	Apr-24	Open source

Foundational models evaluated in this paper

Water Engineering Query

Query: As a water engineer, please select the correct answer from the following options. Which type of sludge require a non-ionic or anionic polymer?

A: Primary sludge B: Secondary sludge C: Chemical sludge D: Septic sludge

Expected Answer: C

Water Research Query

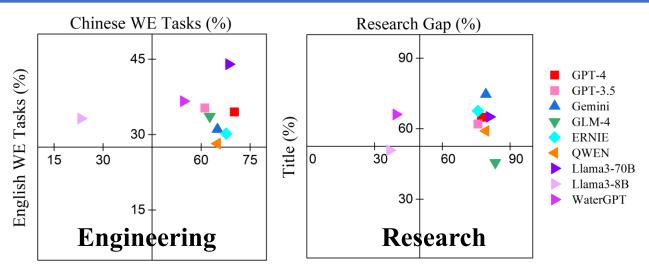
Query: As a water researcher, please generate a proper title using the Abstract. Abstract: XXX

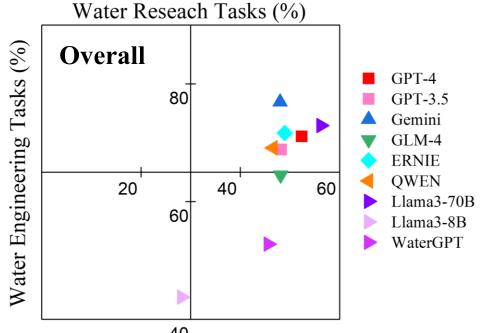
Answer: The title of the published paper

Query: As a water researcher, please identify the research gaps that the study aims to address. The Abstract of it: XXX

Expected Answer: The research gaps of the published paper

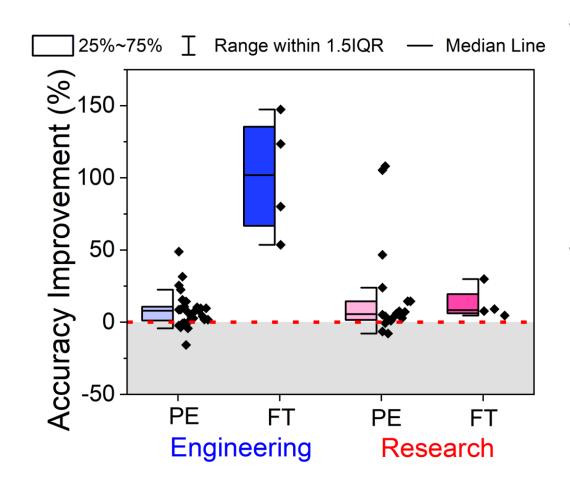
An example of a query from Technical Book and examples of queries for water research (requesting paper title and research gaps).





- •GPT-4: Strong performance in both engineering & research tasks;
- •Gemini: Excels in research tasks, reliable for literature analysis but needs output validation;
- •Llama3-70B: Strong on Chinese engineering queries;
- •Chinese models (GLM-4, ERNIE4.0, QWEN): Outperform GPT-3.5 in English engineering tasks
- •LLMs perform better on **research tasks** than **engineering tasks**
- •Current LLMs' Strengths: Comprehension, Analysis, Reasoning (good for scientific literature)
- •Current LLMs' Weakness: Lack of base water sector knowledge, poor Memorization, leading to <70% accuracy on engineering tasks, especially in Chinese

Large Language Models



Enhancing LLM Performance: Few-Shot vs Fine-Tuning•Five-shot learning:

Boosted Chinese models' performance on Chinese engineering tasks

(Gains from integrating five-shot examples in instruction tuning)

However, results were inconsistent and sometimes detrimental

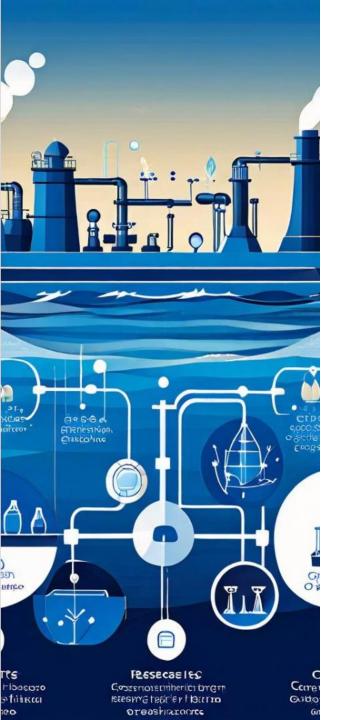
•Fine-tuning approach:

- Created WaterGPT by fine-tuning Llama3-8B with specialized water knowledge
- Outperformed base Llama3-8B by 135.4% (English engineering) and 18.8% (research tasks)
- Matched GPT-3.5 on research gap generation tasks
- Offers transparency, reproducibility, and better data privacy vs closed models

WaterER evaluation framework:

- Effectively captures performance improvements
- Guides further LLM enhancements

Desalination

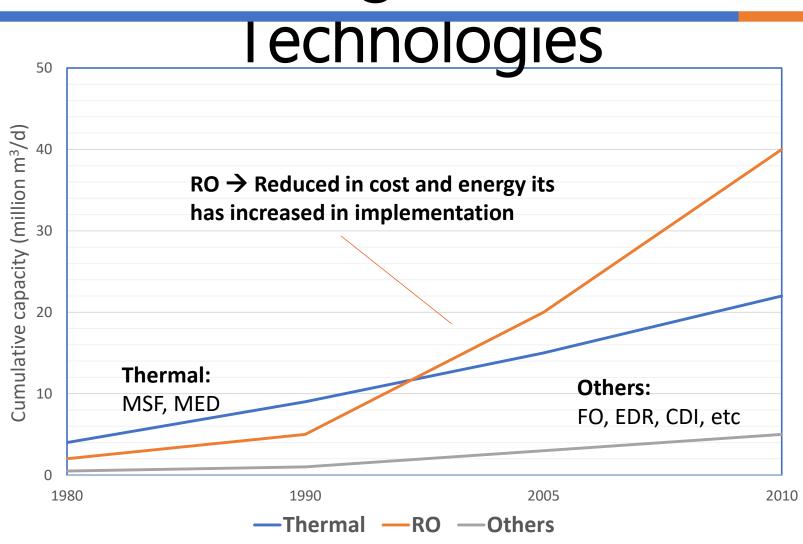


Desalination – from seawater to

From Early Years & Some Sala Water.....

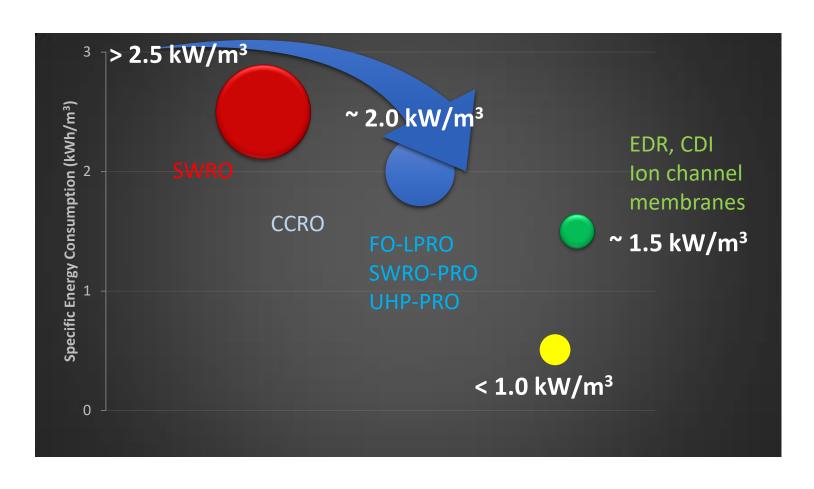


Progress in



Cumulative installed worldwide desalination capacities (extracted from Villacorte et al., 2014)

Energy Demand of Current and Future Desalination Technologies

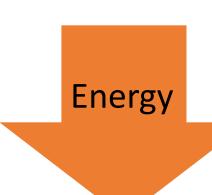




Challenges in Seawater

Desaiination

- More efficient pumps
- Energy recovery devices
- Development of Novel Seawater Pretreatment Technologies



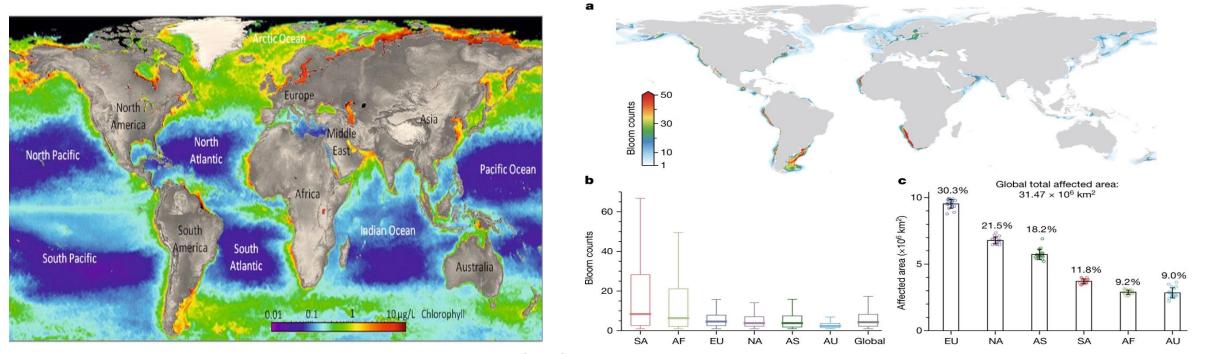


- Higher salinity
- Increasing pollutants concentrations
- Increasing events of algal bloom

Intake Quality



Harmful algae blooms



The spatial extent and frequency of coastal harmful algal blooms (HAB) increase significantly between 2003 and 2020 (Nature volume 615, pages 280–284, 2023)

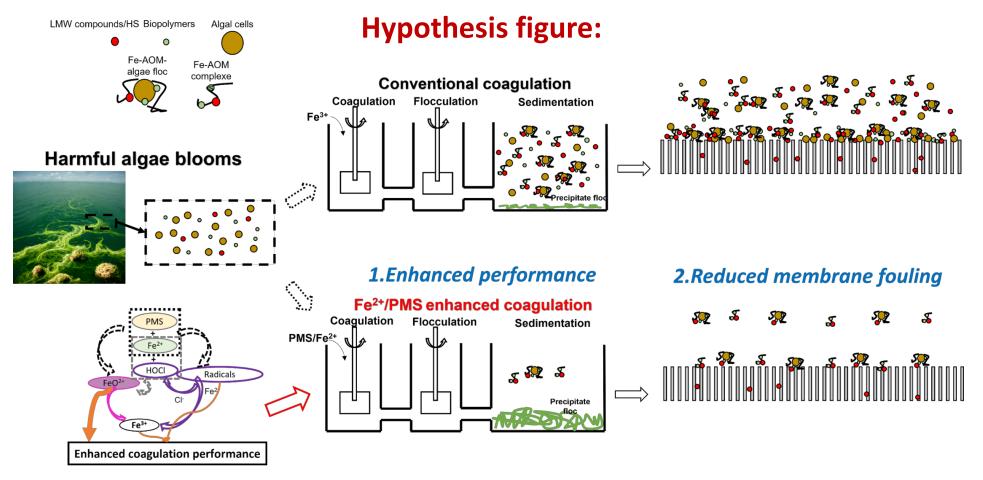
Marine harmful algae bloom (HAB) is a growing threat to desalination plants worldwide.

Conventional pretreatment for seawater desalination is challenged by harmful algae blooms

Pretreatment Total energy The importance energy: ~15% of pretreatment **SWRO Pretreatment SWRO** membrane lifespan reduced Low efficiency Plant shutdown **High Energy** SWRO membrane damaged Reduce risk of seawater desalination plants **Problem:** Climate change→ Harmful algal bloom→ Organics and algae cells

- Conventional coagulation by using Fe³⁺ is **not efficient** due to the limited dosing range (<10ppm) for algal blooms
- Dissolved air flotation (DAF) can help to remove algae cells but not efficient for organics
- Energy consumption of DAF is high (0.05-0.075 kwh/m³)

Ferrous iron/peroxymonosulfate (PMS) VS Conventional coagulation



- 1. PMS/Fe²⁺ is promising for enhanced coagulation in river water, but no one applied PMS/Fe²⁺ into seawater
- 2. Oxidation process of PMS/Fe²⁺ is complex due to the presence of ~20000ppm Cl⁻ and other anions in seawater.
- 3. The oxidation intermediates (free radical/FeO²⁺/Fe³⁺) have never been investigated in seawater before.

Performance and optimization of PMS/Fe²⁺: Appearance

Seawater with algae density of 5x10⁶ cells/ml



After coagulation-flocculation and settlement

Control



0.1mM PMS



0.1 mM Fe²⁺



0.1 mM Fe²⁺+
0.1 mM PMS



0.1 mM Fe³⁺



0.1 mM Fe²⁺+
0.075 mM PMS



0.15 mM Fe³⁺



0.1 mM Fe²⁺ + 0.05 mM PMS



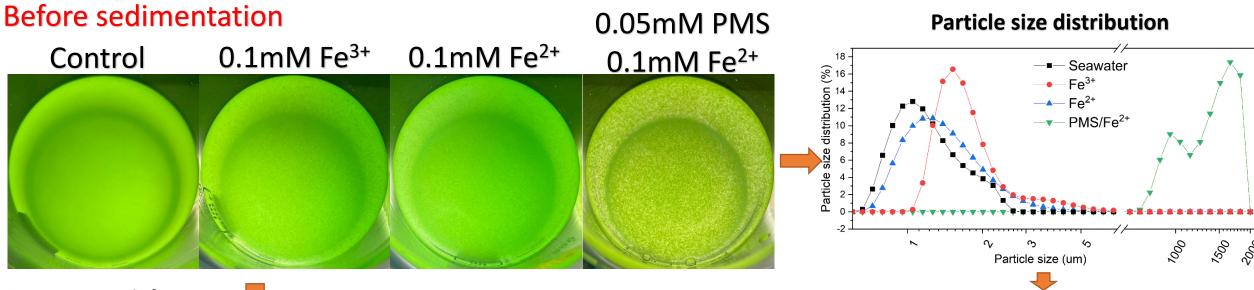
0.2 mM Fe³⁺



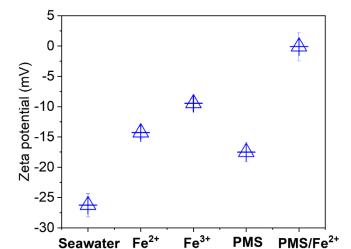
0.1 mM Fe²⁺ + 0.025 mM PMS



removal?



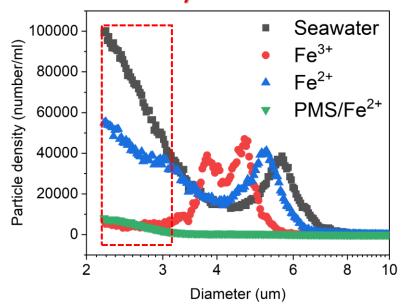




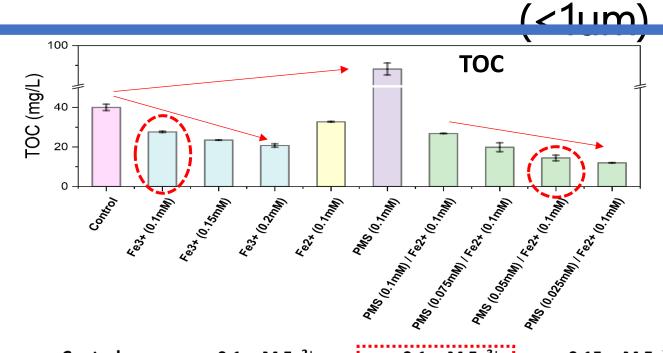
Advantages of PMS/Fe²⁺ over conventional coagulation

- Improvement of flocculation and big flocculated particles
- High zeta potential reduction
- Lower micro-particle density after sedimentation.

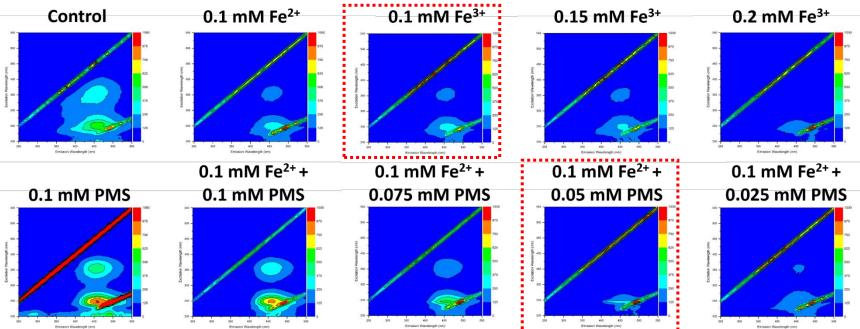
Particle density After sedimentation



Performance and optimization of PMS/Fe²⁺: Organics

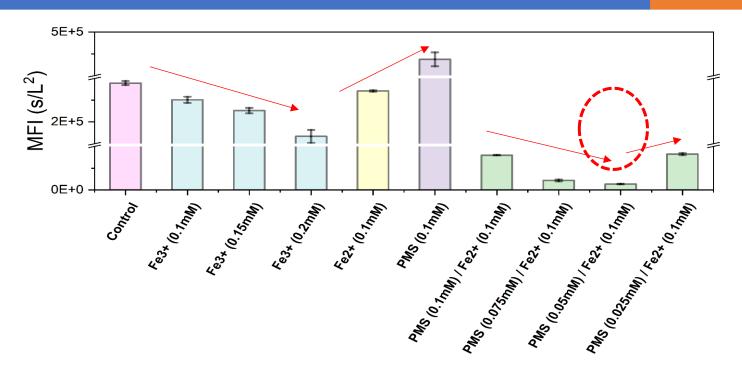


- Higher TOC removal of 0.1mM/0.1mM PMS/Fe²⁺ over 0.1mM Fe³⁺
- Lower PMS dosage of PMS/Fe²⁺ can achieve lower residual TOC.
- High PMS dosage can lead to algal cell rupture to release intracellular organic matters (IOM).



- Higher florescent compounds (i.e., humics substance and fulvic acids) removal of 0.1 mM/0.1 mM PMS/Fe²⁺ over 0.1 mM Fe³⁺
- Lower PMS dosage of PMS/Fe²⁺ can achieve lower residual florescent compounds.

Performance and optimization of PMS/Fe²⁺: modified fouling index (MFI)



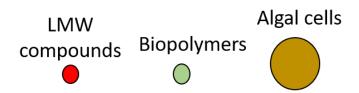
- The MFI increased with respect to the increase of PMS doses from 0.05-0.1mM. It could be attributed to the overdose of PMS to increase TOC to increase MFI
- PMS alone significantly increased MFI due to secretion of IOM.
- MFI increased with respect to the decrease of PMS doses from 0.05-0.025mM. It could be attributed to the limited dosage of PMS leading to a poor flocculation performance
- There was trade-off between particles/algal cells and organics for MFI minimization, and the optimal PMS dosage was 0.05mM for 0.1mM Fe²⁺.

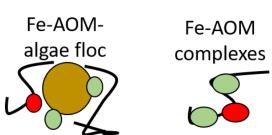


Fouling Mechanisms

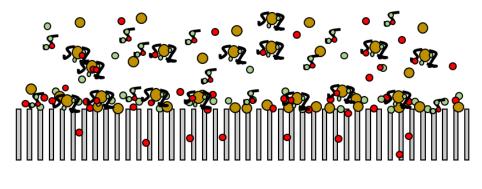
Algae-laden seawater

Types of foulants

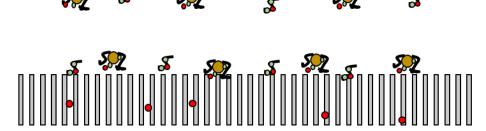




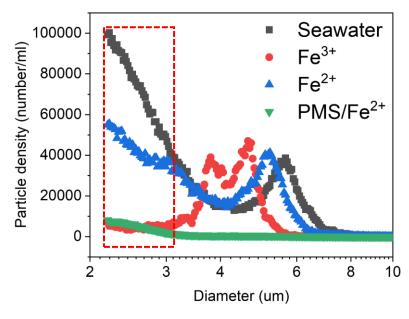
Conventional coagulation







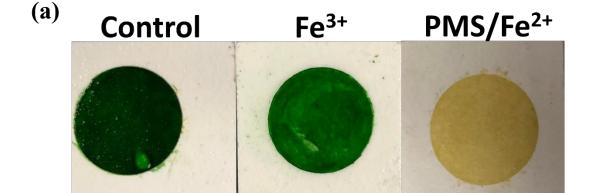
Particle density After sedimentation

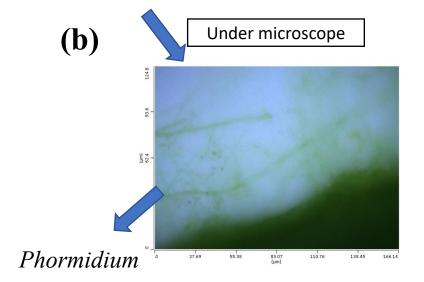


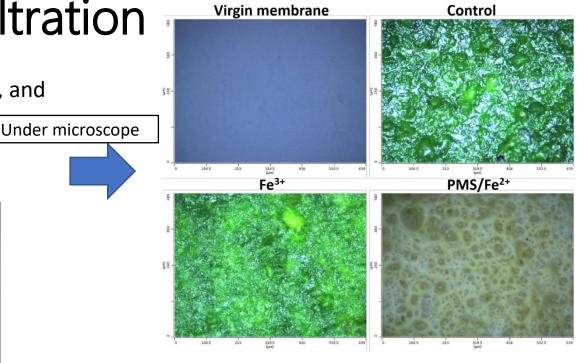
- Reduced cake layer could be attributed to the lower microparticle density, lower residual algae and turbidity
- Low humics and low molecular weight compounds could be implicated to reduce pore blockage

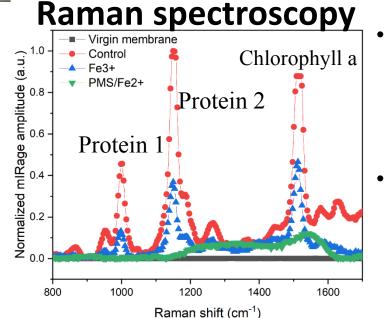
Cake layer autopsy after filtration

Comparison of supernatant of control, Fe³⁺ (0.1mM), and PMS/Fe²⁺ (0.05mM/0.1mM)





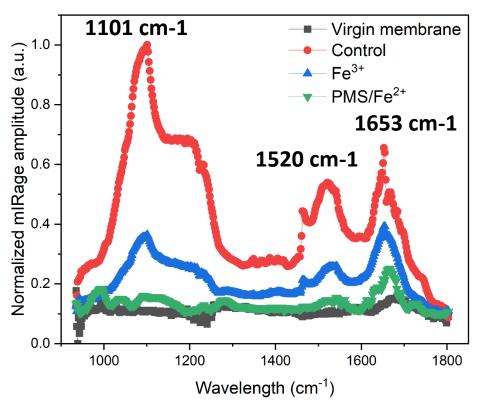




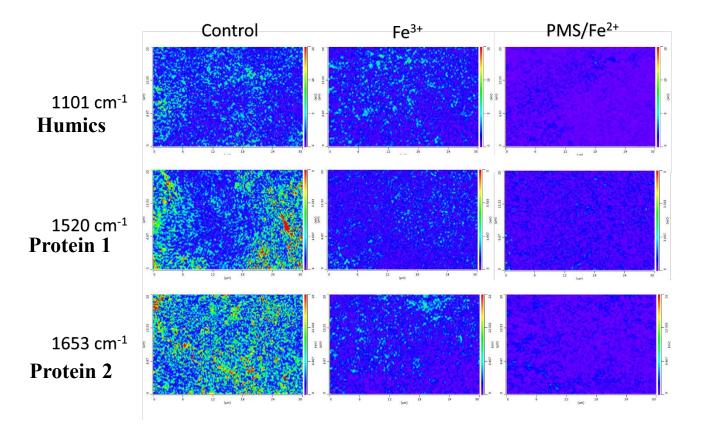
- Fouling autopsy indicate that PMS/Fe²⁺ reduce algae cells on membrane surface such as *Phormidium*
- Raman spectroscopy indicates that PMS/Fe²⁺ could further remove proteins and algal cells on membrane surface as compared to Fe³⁺

Optically based photothermal method (O-PTIR) to obtain infrared spectra

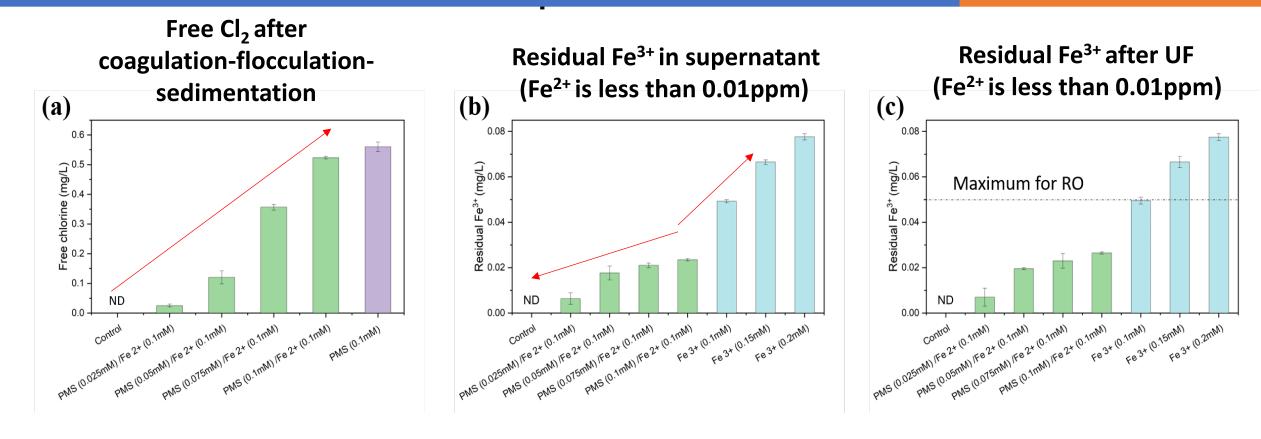
IR of fouled membrane



- Obtain IR in the fingerprint region at a sub-micrometer spatial resolution improved the confidence of spectral interpretations of subtle spectral differences.
- PMS/Fe²⁺ mitigated complicated fouling including not only proteins but also humics acids at a sub-micro resolution as compared to that of Fe³⁺

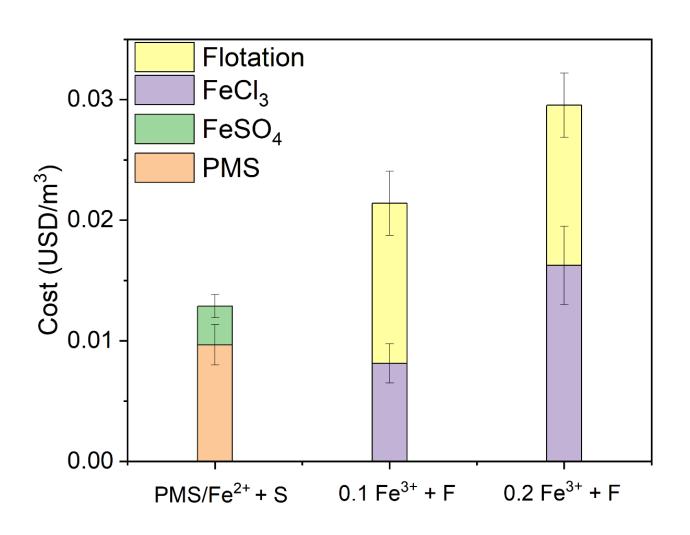


Water quality: free chlorine and dissolved Fe³⁺ in permeate



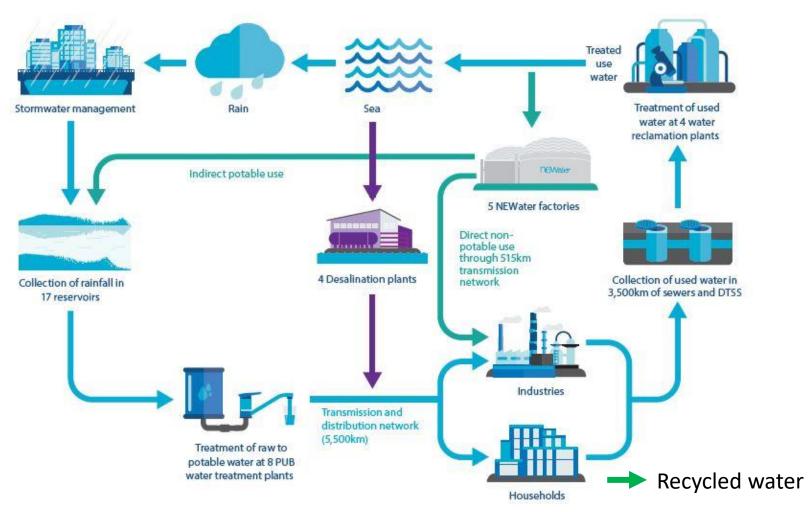
- PMS/Fe²⁺ generated free Cl₂ and reduced the consumption of NaOCl needed for pre-disinfection.
- Although increase dose of PMS in PMS/Fe²⁺ resulted in decrease of Fe³⁺ in supernatant and permeate, PMS/Fe²⁺ generally had lower dissolved Fe³⁺ even at PMS dose of 0.1 mM in supernatant and permeate, as compared to conventional coagulation at all dosage from 0.1 to 0.2 mM.

Cost of desalination pretreatment scenarios of PMS/Fe²⁺ and DAF



- Cost for the electricity required for the flotation take account for more than 50% for conventional DAF.
- The overall cost of the PMS/Fe²⁺ was reduced more than 50% against conventional DAF with double Fe dosage, at even higher coagulation performance.

Closing the Water Loop



https://www.pub.gov.sg/watersupply/singaporewaterstory

Strategic changes and adaptation towards sustainable freshwater supply





Thank you!

謝謝聆聽!





Desalination & Water Reuse: Global Market View, Technologies & Trends

MIGUEL ANGEL SANZ
29 OCT 2025

Smart Watershed, Al-Driven Innovation

智慧流域 AI領航

nternational Forum 2025





Smart Watershed, Al-Driven Innovation 智慧流域 A I 領航

Our Blue Planet ...





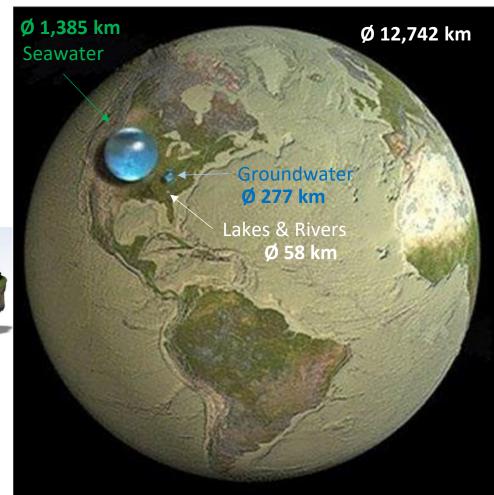
71% of Earth Surface is Water

97.4% Sea Water 2.6% Fresh Water

68.6% is Frozen
30.1% is Ground Water
(0.783 % Earth Water)
1.3% is Surface Water

Only 21% Lakes & Rivers (0.0071 % Earth Water)

... and the Water 智慧流域 AI 領航



The same Water from the Origin.....
4,500 Millions years ago

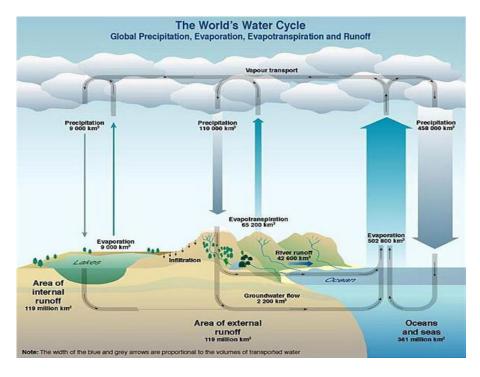
We have the responsibility to preserve these blue "satellites" of our Blue Planet





Smart Watershed, Al-Driven Innovation 智慧流域 A I 領航

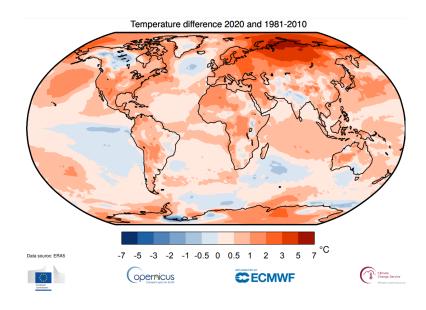
The World Water Cycle



World Water Cycle is preserving the "Equilibrium"



Climate Change is impacting the Water Cycle



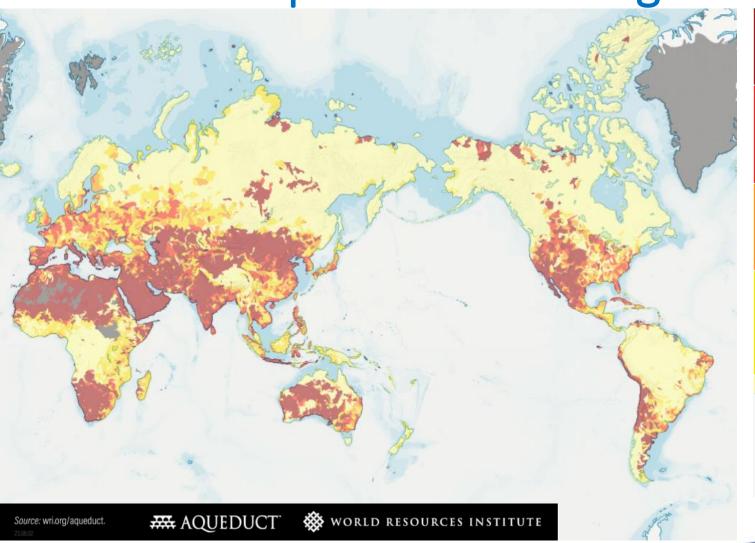
- Extreme Temperatures
- Longer Summer season
- Less rain and water resources
- Lower agriculture production







25% World Population faces High Water Stress



1. Oatar	6. Libya	10. United Arab Emirates	14. Pakistan
2. Israel	7. Kuwait	11. San Marino	15. Turkmenistan
3. Lebanon	8. Saudi Arabia	12. Bahrain	16. Oman
4. Iran	9. Eritrea	13. India	17. Botswana
5. Jordan			
HIGH BASEL	INE WATER	STRESS	
18. Chile	25. Uzbekistan	32. Turkey	39. Niger
19. Cyprus	26. Greece	33. Albania	40. Nepal
20. Yemen	27. Afghanistan	34. Armenia	41. Portugal
21. Andorra	28. Spain	35. Burkina Faso	42. Iraq
22. Morocco	29. Algeria	36. Djibouti	43. Egypt
23. Belgium	30. Tunisia	37. Namibia	44. Italy
24. Mexico	31. Syria	38. Kyrgyzstan	
		58. Estonia	
48. South Africa 49. Luxembourg	54. Bulgaria 55. Mongolia	60. Kazakhstan 61. Mauritania	
50. Australia	56. China	62. Germany	68. Cuba
oo. Adolidiid	00.011111	oz. domiany	ooi oaba
LOW-MEDIUM	BASELINE W	ATER STRESS	
69. North Korea	77. Sri Lanka	85. Ukraine	93. Czech Republic
70. Romania	78. El Salvador	86. Poland	94. Russia
71. United States	79. Tanzania	87. Chad	95. Bolivia
72. Zimbabwe	80. Netherlands	88. Senegal	96. Ethiopia
73. Dominican Republic		89. United Kingdom	97. Bosnia and Herzeg
	82. Lithuania	90. Georgia	98. Swaziland
74. Haiti 75. Japan	83. Philippines	91. Nigeria	99. Moldova

LOW BASELINE WATER STRESS

Low	Low - Medium	Medium- high	High	Extremely high
(0-1)	(1-2)	(2-3)	(3-4)	(4-5)







Desalination & Water Reuse are key tools





Desalination and **Water Reuse** can help to solve Water Scarcity bringing new resources and preserving natural resources.

Key Tools for IWM Decision Makers

IWM: Integrated Water Management





- Desalination Technologies
- Global Desalination Overview
- Desalination in World Regions
- Key Subjects in Desalination and Trends
- Water Reuse & Forecast

Smart Watershed, Al-Driven Innovation 智慧流域 A I 領航

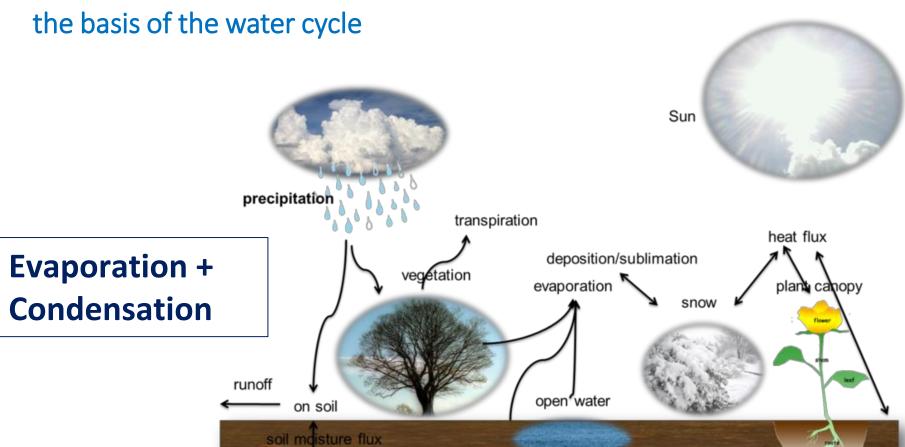
International Forum 2025







Desalination: A Natural Process Used Every Day



internal soil moisture

internal flow

Natural
Direct
Osmosis

internal heat flux

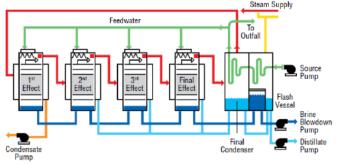






Desalination Thermal Technologies: MSF & MED

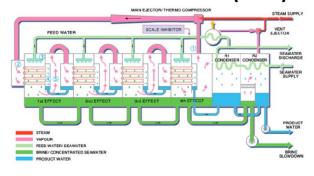
Multi Stage Flash distillation (MSF)





MSF Desalination Plants- Jebel Ali Dubai - UAE

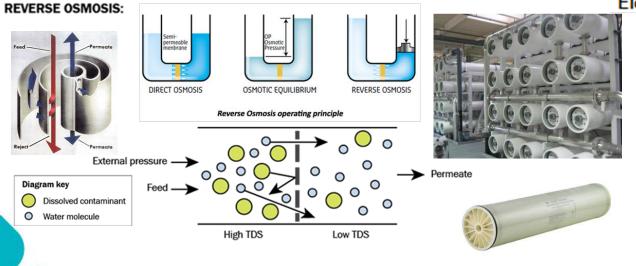
Multi Effect Distillation (MED)

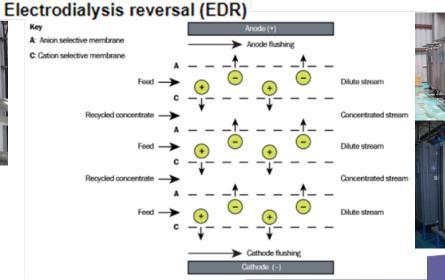




MED Desalination Plants-Al Jubail - KSA

Desalination Membrane Technologies: RO & EDR





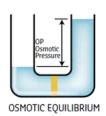






Reverse Osmosis Membranes

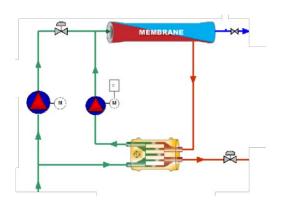


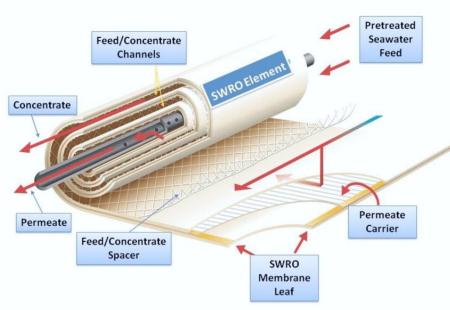




Reverse Osmosis operating principle

SW High Pressure Pumps (55 to 70 bar) Energy Recovery Devices









Usually 4, 6, 7 or 8 Membranes Per Pressure vessel (PV)

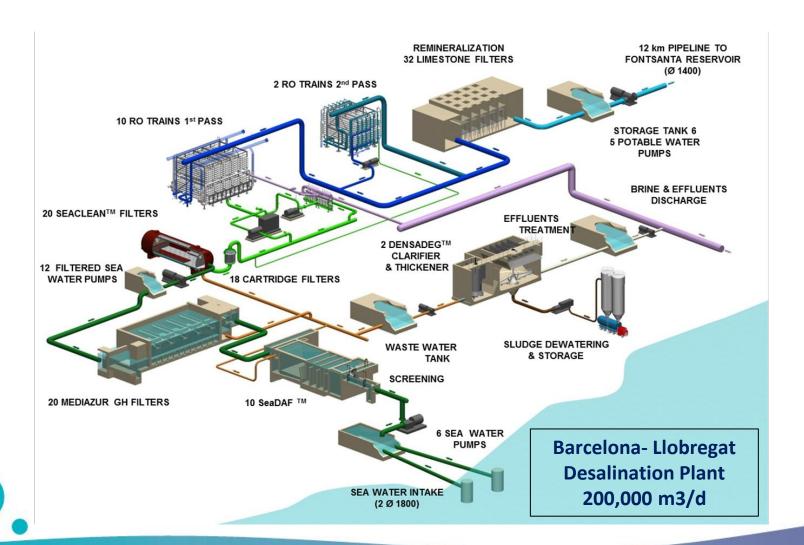








SW Reverse Osmosis Plant: Treatment Line



SWRO Treatment Line:

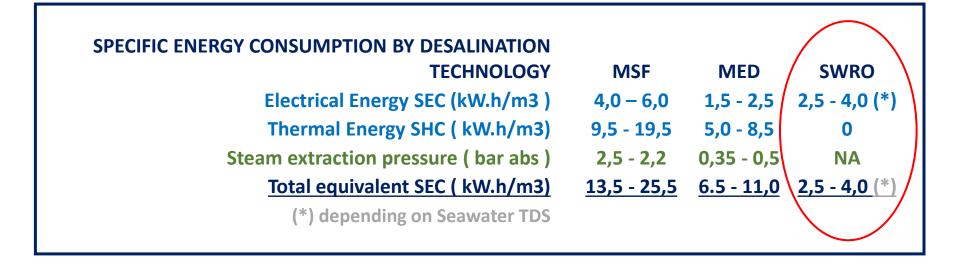
- SW Intake & Pumping
- Screening
- Pre-Treatment Steps (1, 2 or 3)
- Cartridge Filters
- HP Pump and Energy Recovery
- Reverse Osmosis Trains (1 or 2 passes)
- Post-Treatment
- Storage and Pumping
- Effluent & Sludge Treatment
- Concentrate Discharge







Reverse Osmosis is the Technology with lower Energy Consumption in Seawater Desalination



Energy Consumption in SWRO has been drastically reduced in the in the last decades

Energy Consumption has been the **driver** of Desalination Development





- Desalination Technologies
- Global Desalination Overview
- Desalination in World Regions
- Key Subjects in Desalination and Trends
- Water Reuse & Forecast

Smart Watershed, Al-Driven Innovation 智慧流域 A I 領航

International Forum 2025





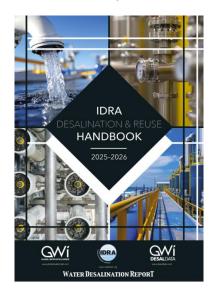


2025 Desalination Inventory

19,200 Plants – 142 Million m³/day (Constr. + Operation)

Plants	Desalination Plants 37th Inventory (Sept 2025)	Capacity - m³/day
23.031	Total Plants	151.465.344
3.843	Off Line	9.434.333
18.782	In Operation	118.614.372
406	Under Construction	23.416.639
19.188	Under Construction + Operation	142.031.011

Plants	Seawater Desalination Plants 37th Inventory (Sept 2025)	Capacity - m³/day
7.179	Total Plants	94.775.713
920	Off Line	5.757.892
6.033	In Operation	67.716.927
226	Under Construction	21.300.894
6.259	Under Construction + Operation	89.017.821



SW 32% Plants

SW 63% Capacity



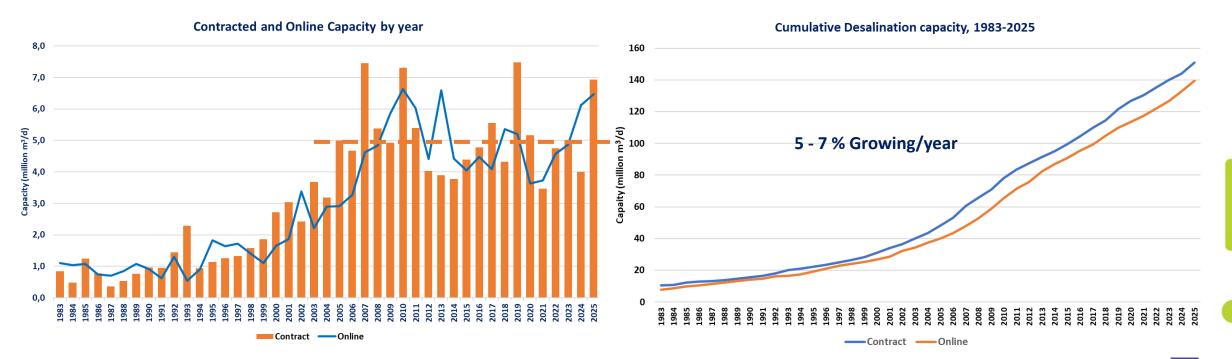




Desalination Evolution

DESALINATION is a mature Technology with a large Experience and References

Every year 5.000.000 m³/day more (average)



180 Million m³/day is the expected Desalination Production Capacity in 2030





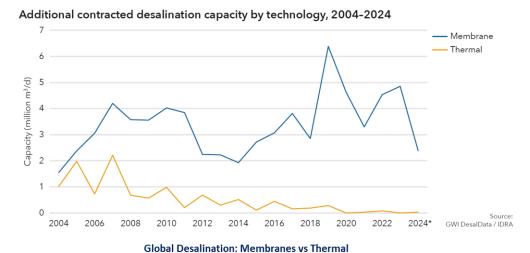


Desalination Technologies, Feedwater and Users

WATER SOURCE > 2010

Thermal Desalination is mainly limited to **MLD or ZLD**

(Minimum Liquid Discharge or Zero Liquid Discharge)

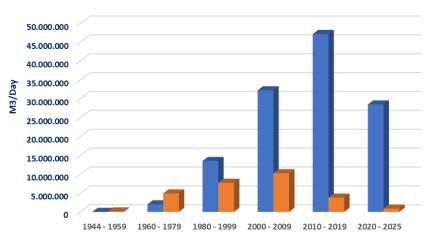


Since 2020: 50.000.000 Over 97% 45.000.000 40.000.000 of new plants

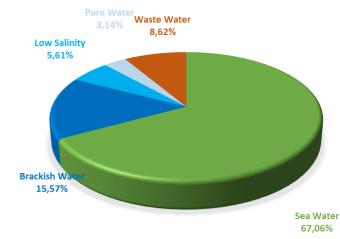
Membranes

use only

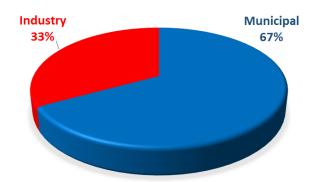
(even in MENA Region



■ Membranes
■ Thermal



2/3 of the Market is Municipal (including Irrigation) ...and using mainly SW as source









Desalination: Size & Feedwater

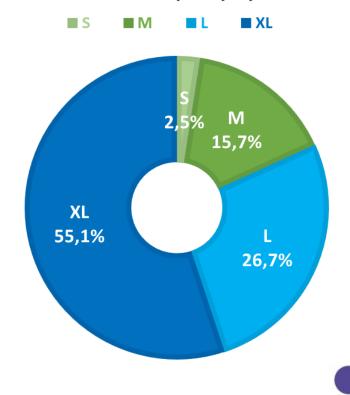
Total Plants in Operation & Construction

	By Size		Capacity (m³/d)	%	#	%	Av. Size (m3/d)
	<1.000	S	3.521.178	2,5%	9.613	50,3%	366
>1.000	<10.000	M	22.356.872	15,7%	7.137	37,3%	3.133
>10.000	<50.000		37.930.854	26.7%	1.857	9.7%	20.426
>50.000		XL	78.221.108	55,1%	505	2,6%	154.893
	Total		142.030.012	100,0%	19.112	100,0%	7.431

50% of the Plants \rightarrow 2.5% of Capacity

2.6% of the Plants \rightarrow 55% of Capacity

Desalination Capacity by Size



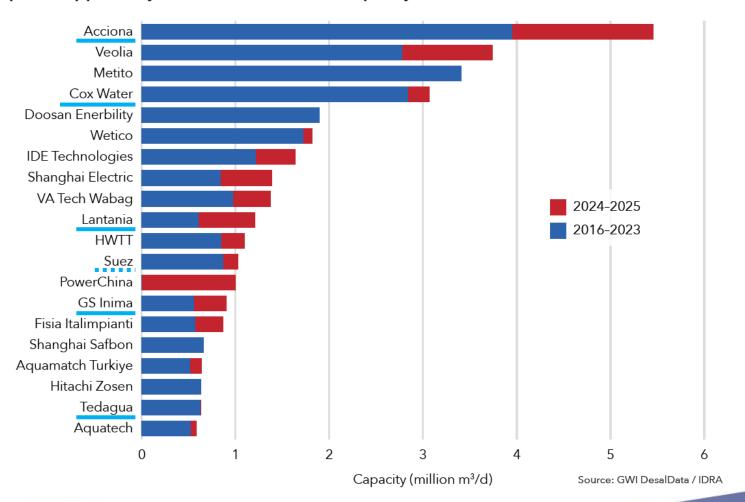






Desalination Main Actors

Top 20 plant suppliers by awarded desalination capacity, 2016-2025



Spain is the Country having more Key Players in the Desalination Market





- Desalination Technologies
- Global Desalination Overview
- Desalination in World Regions
- Key Subjects in Desalination and Trends
- Water Reuse & Forecast

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Desalination in the World

Countries +100,000 m3/day installed capacity



is used in more than

150

Countries

400
Million people
can use
Desalinated Water
Worldwide

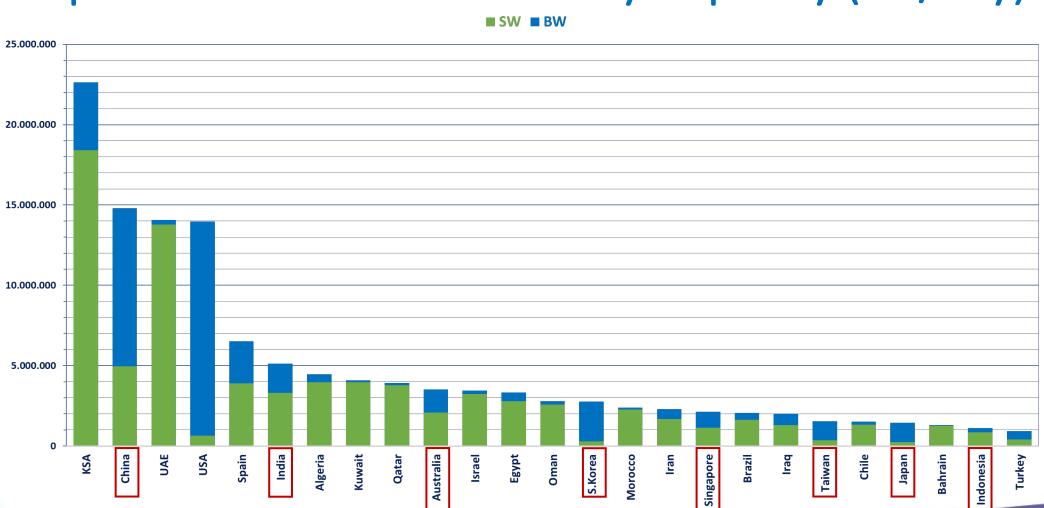
m3/d







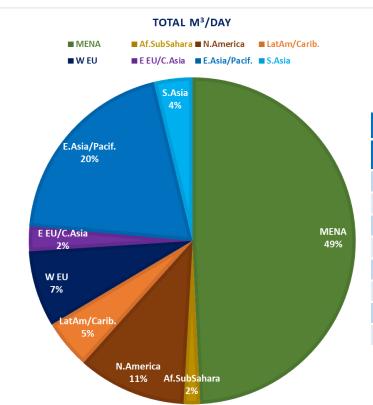
Top Desalination Countries by Capacity (m³/day)



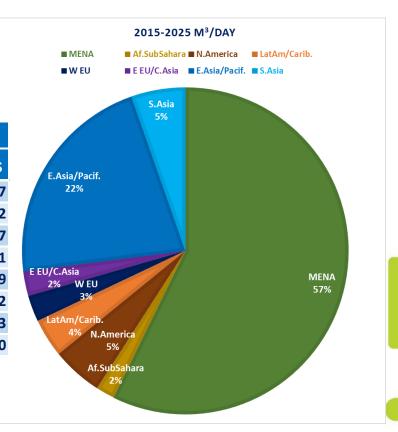




Desalination in World Regions



Tota		2015-2025		
m³/day	Plants	m³/day	Plants	
74.577.902	6.972	31.990.385	857	
2.502.461	419	1.016.874	102	
16.206.001	3.556	2.818.766	517	
7.366.713	2.123	2.137.249	551	
11.405.689	3.230	1.450.014	429	
3.732.010	811	1.358.362	222	
29.917.015	5.055	12.090.455	1.063	
5.757.553	865	2.991.673	190	
	m ³ /day 74.577.902 2.502.461 16.206.001 7.366.713 11.405.689 3.732.010 29.917.015	74.577.902 6.972 2.502.461 419 16.206.001 3.556 7.366.713 2.123 11.405.689 3.230 3.732.010 811 29.917.015 5.055	m³/day Plants m³/day 74.577.902 6.972 31.990.385 2.502.461 419 1.016.874 16.206.001 3.556 2.818.766 7.366.713 2.123 2.137.249 11.405.689 3.230 1.450.014 3.732.010 811 1.358.362 29.917.015 5.055 12.090.455	



50% of World Desalinationbased in MEA.25% EU and Americas25% Asia and Pacific

70% of SW Desalination based in MEA.

MENA and Asia are the main Desalination Markets today:

Over 85%





- Desalination Technologies
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Desalination: Size of SW Plants Size increasing

Contracted desalination capacity by plant size, 2005-2025

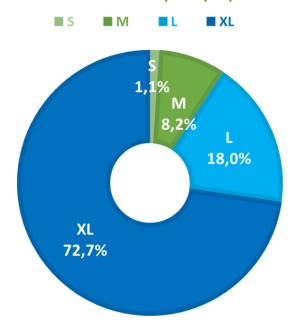


Source: GWI DesalData / IDRA

Sea Water Plants in Operation & Construction 2000 - 2025

Sea Water By Size		Capacity (m³/d)	%	#	%	Av. Size (m3/d)	
	<1.000	S	1.002.390	1,1%	2.806	44,9%	357
>1.000	<10.000	M	7.282.834	8,2%	2.304	36,8%	3.161
>10.000	<50.000	L	16.000.837	18,0%	781	12,5%	20.488
>50.000		XL	64.731.760	72,7%	362	5,8%	178.817
	Total		89.017.821	100,0%	6.253	100,0%	14.236

SW Desalination Capacity by Size



18% of the Plants \rightarrow 91% of Capacity 6% of the Plants \rightarrow 73% of Capacity







Desalination Procurement: <u>O&M included</u>

Contracted 2005 - 2025

Total Plants	Procurement	m³/day	%	Av. Size (m3/d)
367	DBFO/BOT/IWP/DBO	36.796.056	34,6%	100.262
10.314	DB / EPC	69.598.597	65,4%	6.748
10.681	Total	106.394.653	100,0%	9.961
SW Plants	Procurement	m³/day	%	Av. Size (m3/d)
277	DBFO/BOT/IWP/DBO	33.859.541	48,5%	122.237
3.031	DB / EPC	36.024.103	51,5%	11.885
3.308	Total	69.883.644	100,0%	21.126

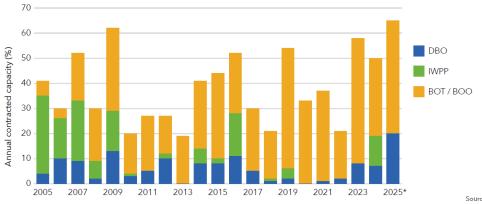
Water Market:

<u>Desalination</u> is bringing more opportunities in <u>Financing</u> than DWT or WWT

Procurement includes <u>long term</u>
O&M in most of large plants...

and also <u>financing</u>

Almost 50% for Sea Water



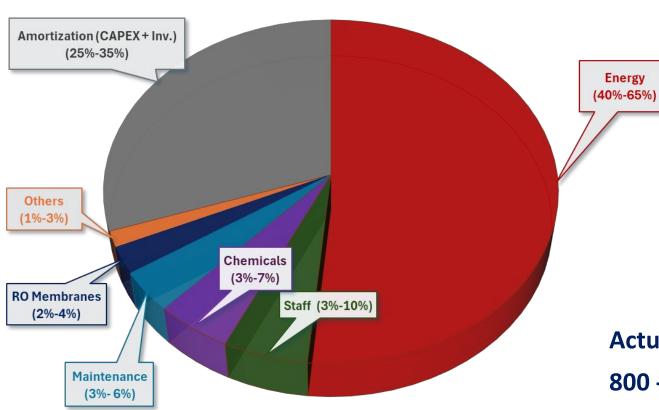






Main Target in SW Desal: <u>Total Water Cost</u>

Water Cost breakdown for Large SW Desalination Plants



Actual Desal Water Cost:

0,40 - 1,50 USD/m³

- CAPEX + OPEX
- Long Operation (20-25 y)
- ENERGY is the main cost
- Focus: optimisation of OPEX
- Coupling to Renewable Energy?

Actual Desal CAPEX Cost for XL plants:

800 - 1400 USD/m³/day



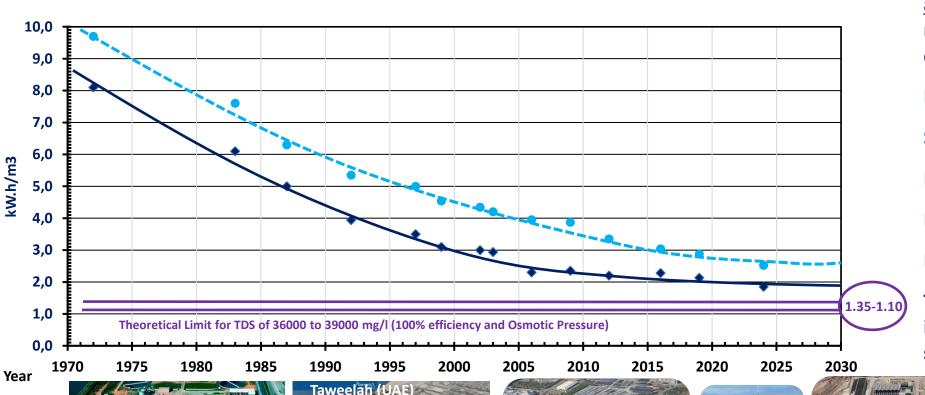




Energy Consumption in SW Reverse Osmosis







Perth

We are <u>on the limits of the</u> <u>actual technology</u> due to many improvements in last decades:

Evolution & Innovations

Size of the plants/trains

Membrane evolution

Pumps & Motors Efficiency

Energy Recovery systems

To reduce the energy costs, it is necessary to use other sources: Renewable Energy

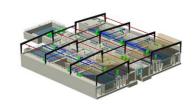


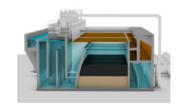




Other SWRO Trends

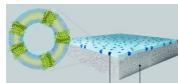
- Pretreatment optimization
 - High Speed DAF
 - DAF-Filters high rate
 - Membrane Pretreatment: Ceramic Membranes high potential
- New Membranes development (graphene, electrically charged, antifouling, new materials, coating...)
- Use of AI to improve O&M performance and costs (machine learning, digital twins...)
- Minimize Carbon Footprint
- Circular Economy









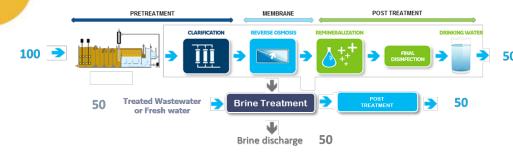




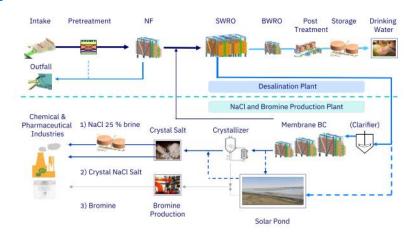


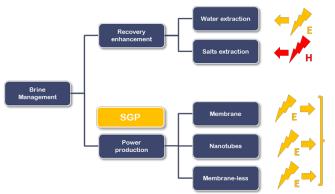


Circular Economy: Brine as Source







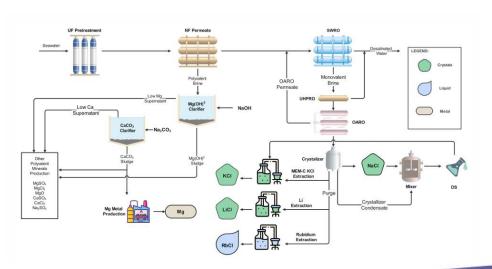


Compatible with Existing Facilities

Increase Water Production

- (+ Recover Salts)
- (+ Produce Energy)
- (+ WW Reuse)

Salinity Gradient Power









Acidic

Before PRONCE

After

PRON©

Using Discharge to Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement

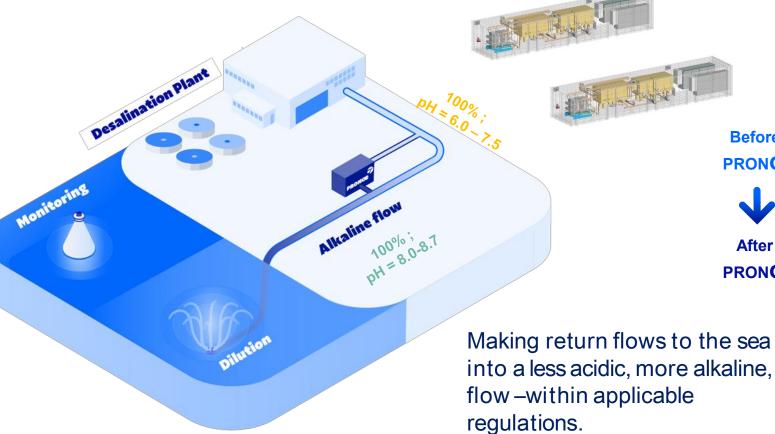
Reducing Ocean Acidification













Alkaline



- Desalination Technologies
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- Water Reuse & Forecast

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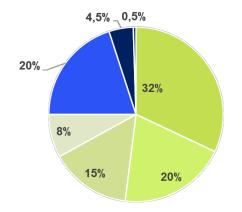
4 Types of Water Reuse<> 4 Technology Levels

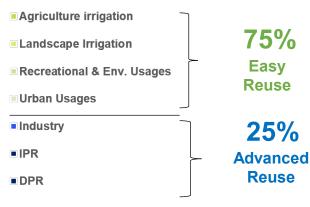
Before Wastewater Reuse:

Need to Sanitation and WWTPs infrastructure



Wastewater Reuse Practices Worldwide 1990 - 2014





IPR: Indirect Potable Reuse: DPR: Direct Potable Reuse



WWTP Pinedo Valencia (Spain)



AWTP Beenyup (W. Australia)

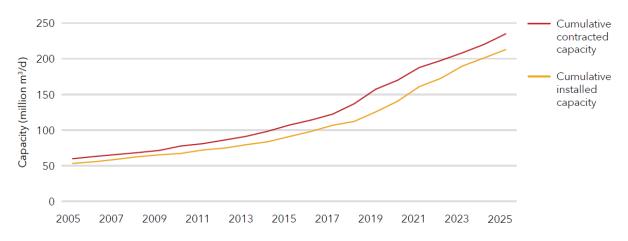




Smart Watershed,

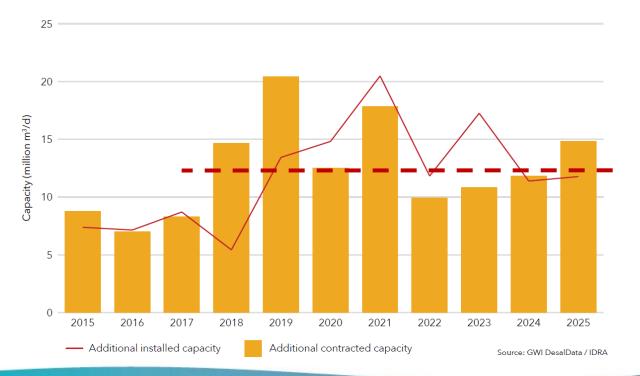
Cumulative contracted and installed reuse capacity by year, 2005-2025

Water Reuse in figures



Annual contracted and installed reuse capacity by year, 2015-2025

Source: GWI DesalData / IDRA



Water Reuse capacity is growing faster than Desalination

Over 12.000.000 m3/day new capacity every year





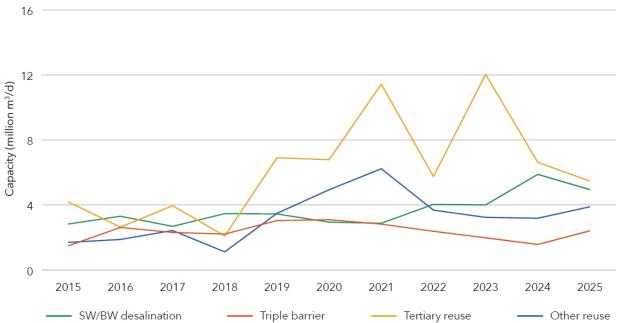
Water Reuse Capacity: Regions and Technologies



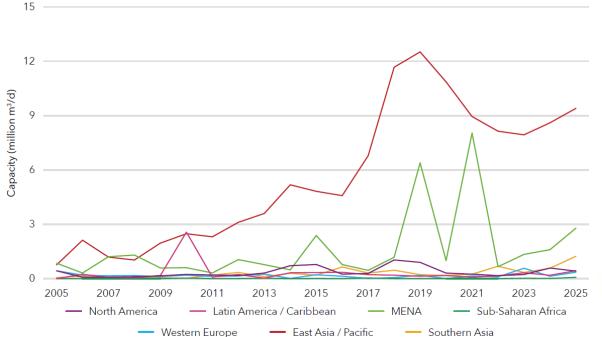


AWTP West Basin, LA California, USA 1st Multipurpose WRP

Annual installed desalination and reuse capacity by technology, 2015-2025



Additional contracted reuse capacity by region, 2005-2025









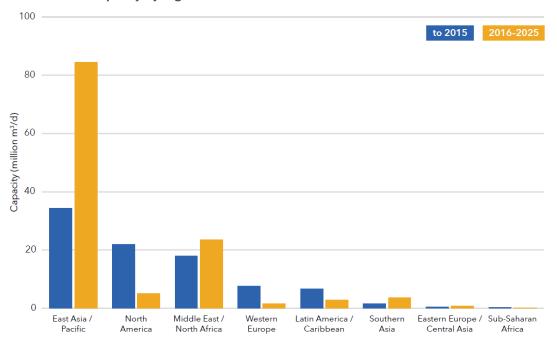
Water Reuse Capacity: Regions and Technologies



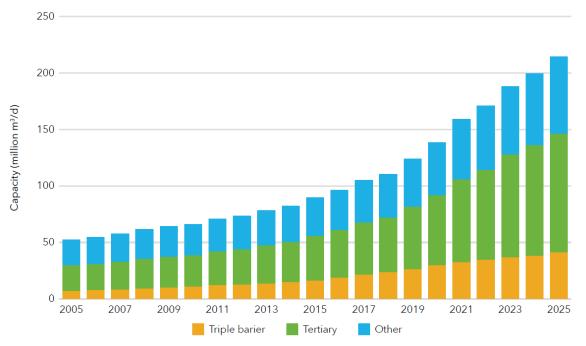
AWTP Windhoek Namibia 1st DPR

Installed reuse capacity by region to 2025

Capacity figures for mainland China are based on data published by MOHURD



Cumulative installed reuse capacity by treatment level, 2005-2025



Capacity figures for mainland China are based on data published by MOHURD

Source: GWI DesalData / IDRA

Source: GWI DesalData / IDRA







Industry and Irrigation are the main Reuse applications > 75%

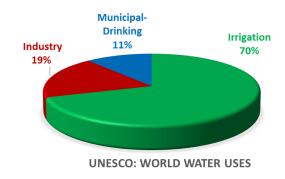
WWR Market:

Industry & Irrigation are the largest by Volume

DPR/IPR & Industry are the more technological



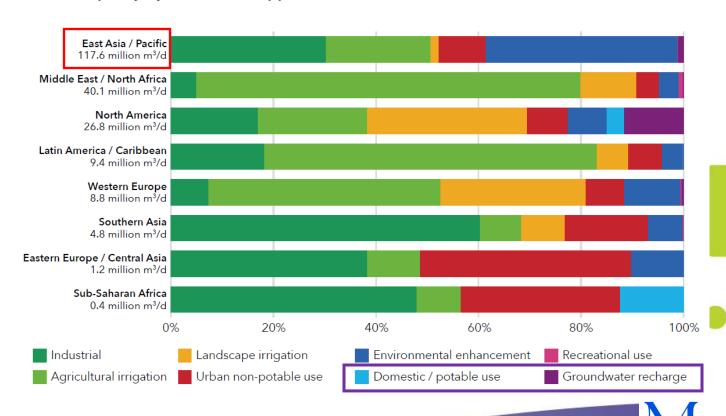
A&WWTP Depur-Baix (BCN)
Spain
Multipurpose WRP - IPR



Evolution of WWR Market:

In last decade **Industry has overtaking the Agriculture,** particularly in Asia

Installed capacity by water reuse application, 1991-2025

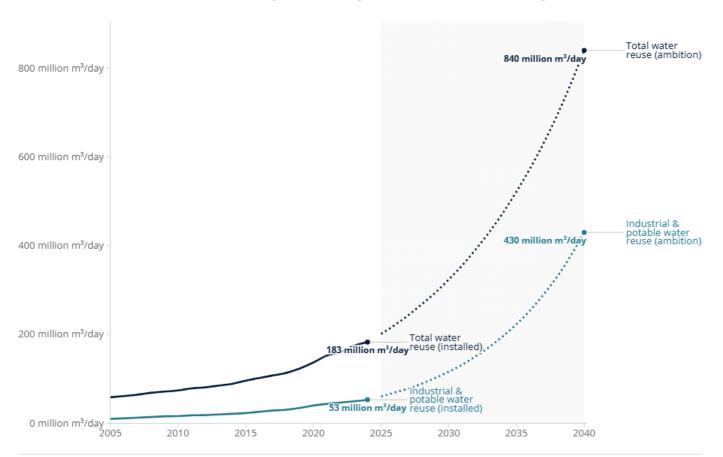






A Huge Potential of Water Reuse in the Future

Water reuse potential by 2040, in million m³/day



WWR a Promising Market:

> 10 % Annual growth 840 Hm³/day in 2040 (WB)

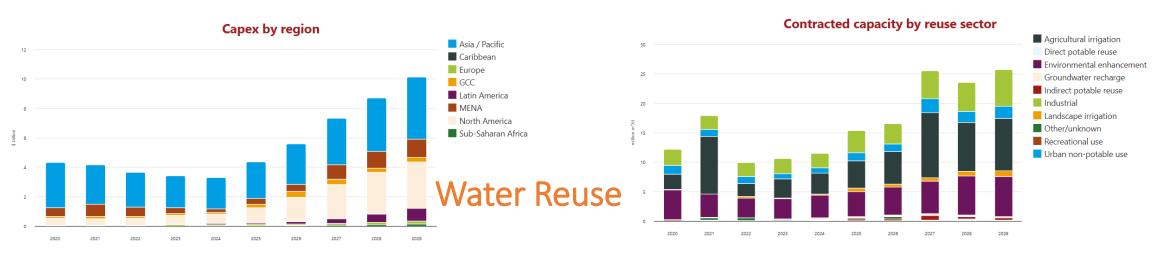
Source: Adapted from World Bank (2025). Scaling Water Reuse: A Tipping Point for Municipal and Industrial Use. • Notes: In addition to industrial and potable reuse, total reuse includes agricultural irrigation (amounting to 88 million m³ per day in 2024), landscape irrigation (amounting to 21 million m³ per day in 2024), urban non-potable reuse (17 million m³ per day in 2024), and recreational/ miscellaneous reuse (4 million m³ per day in 2024). Installed capacity from GWI data; municipal freshwater withdrawals assumed to grow at 1% per year.

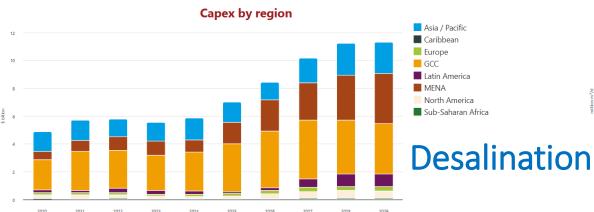


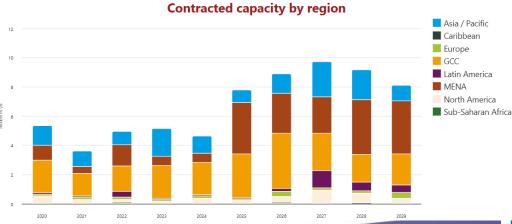


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Forecast: An Important Growth









The most expensive water is what we don't have

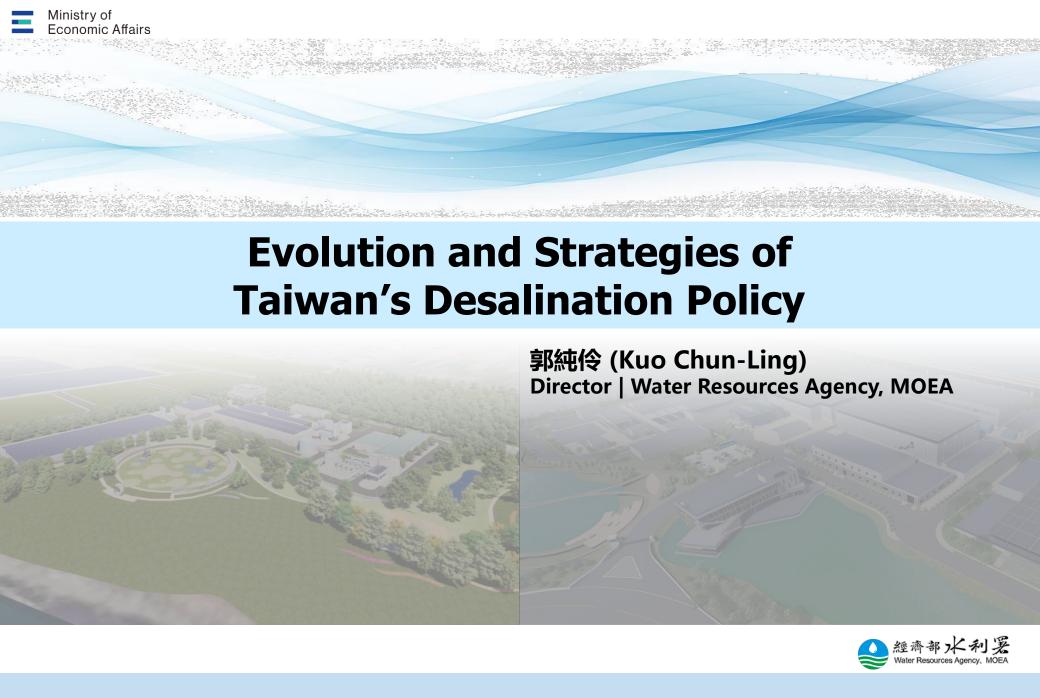
THANK YOU

Miguel Angel SANZ

MS Water Consult

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Outline

- 1. Challenges of Water Resources in Taiwan
- 2. Policy Evolution
- 3. Promotion Strategies
- 4. Conclusion

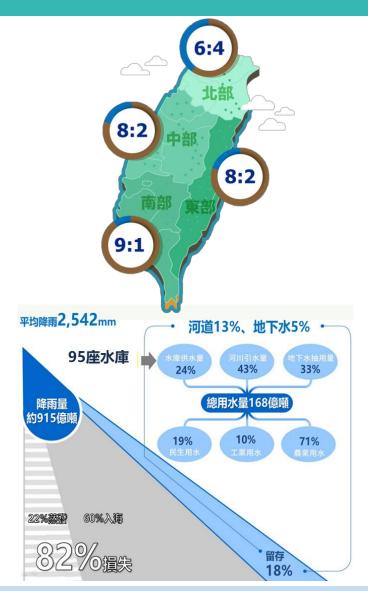
1. Challenges of Water Resources in Taiwan



Natural Limitations

Uneven Distribution of Rainfall

- Average annual rainfall: 2.6× the global average, but uneven across time and regions.
- Clear wet-dry season contrast in central and southern Taiwan.
- Topographic Constraints on **Water Utilization**
 - Reservoir storage strongly influenced by rainfall patterns
 - Steep terrain and rapid runoff only about 18% of rainfall can be retained



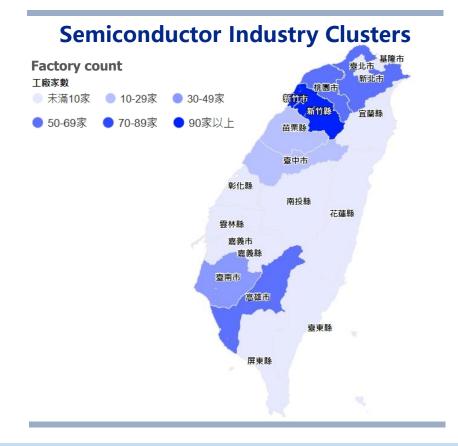
Socioeconomic Change

- Urban population concentration
 - Rising water demand and increasing supply risks.

Population Growth Map of Taiwan Taoyuan and Hsinchu are high-growth regions, while 6 major metropolitan areas remain growth hotspots. Annual growth rate 年成長率

K源:內政部統計報告。統計年為2020年

- Rapid industrial expansion
 - Thriving industries driving future water demand growth.



Climate Change



Extreme heat (May-September) Future hot days may exceed 100 days per year



Reduced rainfall in dry seasons More frequent droughts



Increased rainfall in wet seasons **Heavier downpours**



Fewer but stronger typhoons Higher proportion of severe storms



10-year recurrence

Heatwave: +2.6°C

Rainfall intensity: +14%

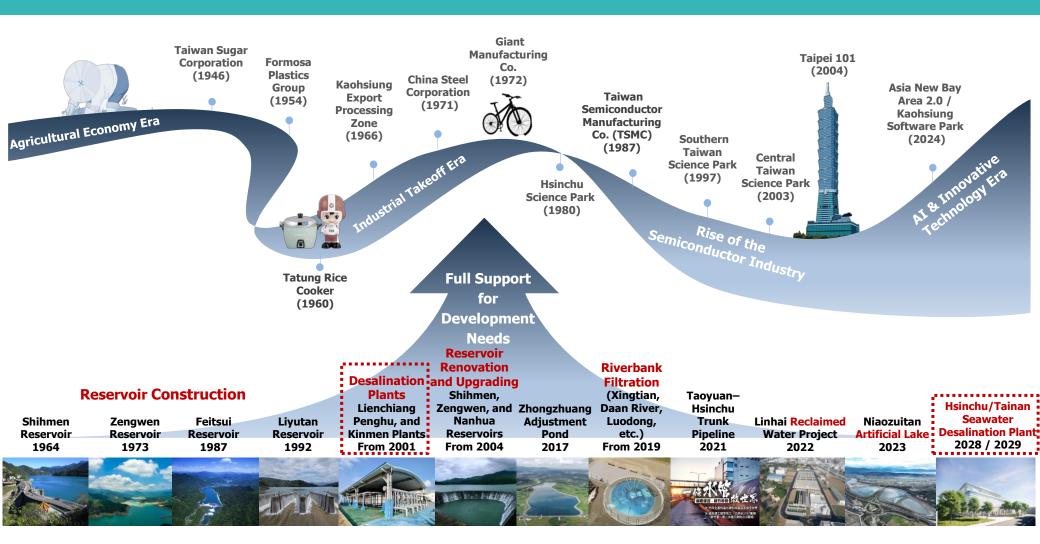
Drought frequency: 2.4× higher

- **Higher annual temperatures, shorter winters**
 - Rising water demand
- More consecutive dry days and stronger single-day rainfall
 - **Higher drought and flood risks**
- Typhoons fewer but stronger
 - Sedimentation worsens, smaller reservoir capacity, higher turbidity
- **Drier dry seasons, wetter wet seasons**
 - Harder water allocation, stronger water disasters

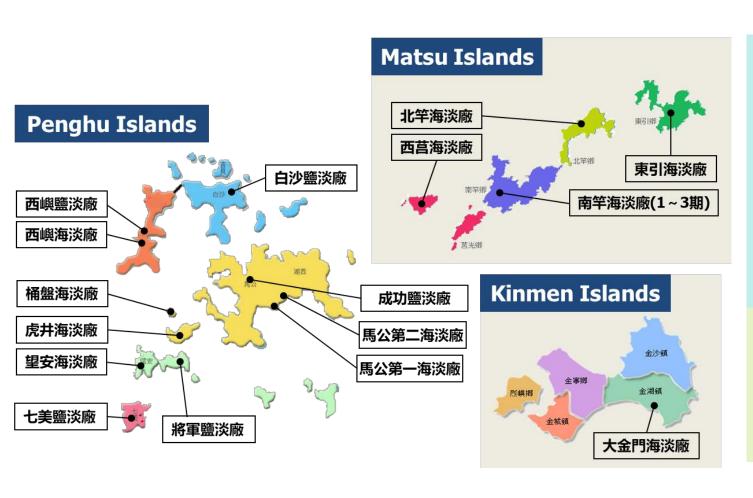
2. Policy Evolution



From Traditional to Diversified



Desalination for Offshore Islands



- Uneven Rainfall & Limited Water Resources
- Low annual rainfall;
 highly uneven wet—
 dry distribution
- Small land area and steep terrain limit water retention

Example – Penghu Water Supply:

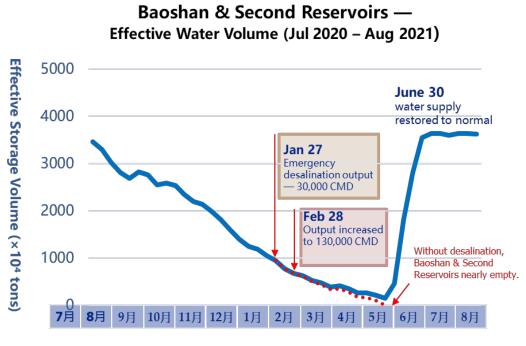
Desalinated water: ~63%

Reservoir water: ~12%

Groundwater: ~25%

Emergency Desalination Support During Droughts

- ◆ In 2021, Taiwan's severe drought: An emergency desalination plant was built in Hsinchu within just 66 days, producing 13,000 tons of water per day enough for 50,000 people's daily use.
- In 2023, drought in southern Taiwan: Hsinta Power Plant's temporary desalination facility was completed in 40 days, supplying 15,000 tons/day.





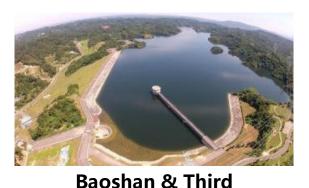


Advantages of desalination

Faster, Compact, and More Stable than Traditional Water Sources



Example: Hsinchu Area Planning



Hsinchu
Desalination Plant

Reservoirs

100,000 m³/day

4 years

NT\$12 billion

Low

Supply Volume

Construction

Cost

✓ Environmental Impact

250,000 m³/day

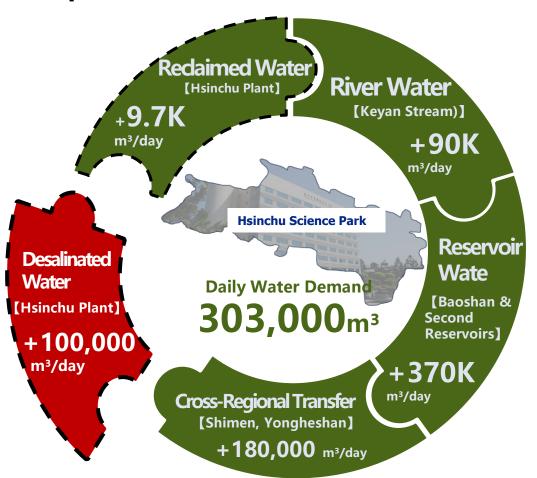
15 years

NT\$35 billion

High

Enhancing Water Resilience Through Desalination for High-Tech Industries

Example: Hsinchu Area



Ongoing Efforts

Riverbank filtration, reclaimed water, and inter-regional transfers are key infrastructure projects.

Hsinchu Desalination Plant

A key component

A vital facility ensuring a stable water supply for Hsinchu Science Park

Expanding desalination for water resilience

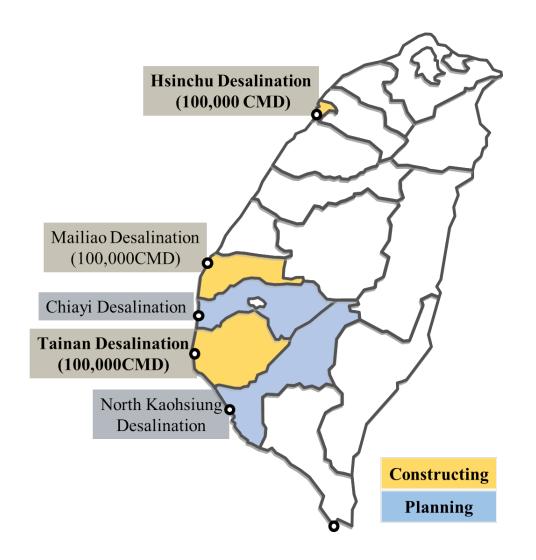
3 Plants Under Construction

Mailiao Desalination

Hsinchu & Tainan Desalination — Operation expected in 2027–2028

2 Plants Under Planning

Chiayi North Kaohsiung



3. Promotion Strategies

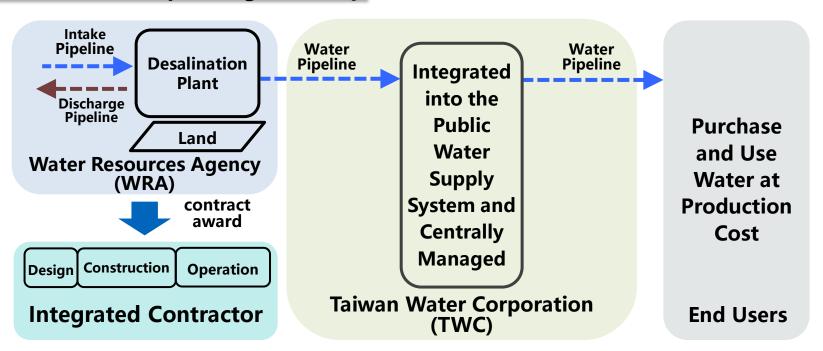


Construction Pattern of the First Two Large-Scale Desalination Plants

Public Construction Model Implementation:

- ✓ Adopts an integrated design—build approach for joint planning and design, ensuring quality through a three-tier control system, and promoting technology transfer and local industry development via domestic and international cooperation.
- ✓ Considers industrial water demand, regional characteristics, and flexible water allocation.

Division of labour and operating authority



Corporate Participation to Ease Government Burden

Encouraging Corporate Purchaseof Desalinated Water

High-tech companies are encouraged to buy desalinated water.

Reduces government spending by about

NT\$ 14.7

billion per year

Priority of Desalinated Water Allocation

Corporate participation ensures additional water sources for high-tech industries.

Promotes new water resource development and industrial resilience.

Serves as a regional water security measure.

Example:

A company using 50K m³/day faces a 20% cut during droughts. With a 10K m³/day desalinated water purchase, supply is maintained.

Without Desalinated Water Purchase

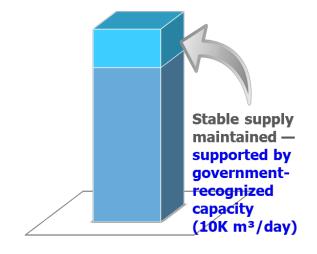
Total Supply: 40K m³/day

20% reduction during drought → -10K m³/day.

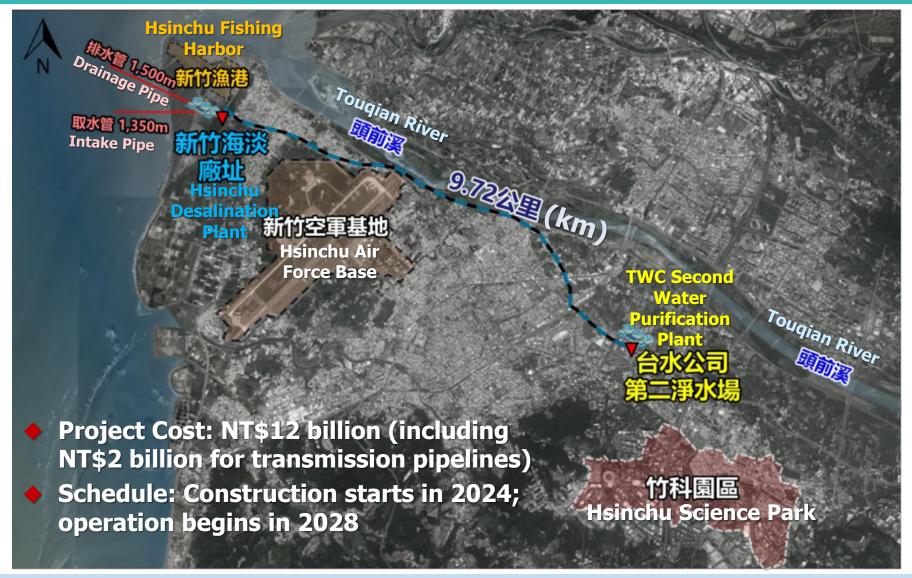
Shortfall made up by temporary water sources (e.g. tank trucks)

With 10K m³/day Desalinated Water Purchase

Total Supply Maintained: 50K m³/day



Hsinchu Desalination Plant



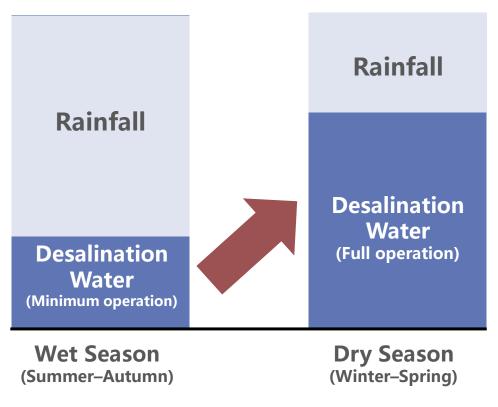
Tainan Desalination Plant

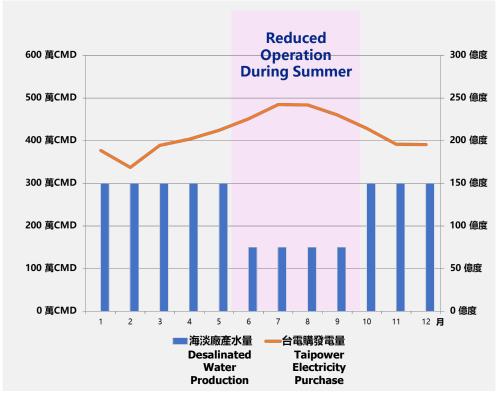


Integrated Use of Desalinated and Regional Water

Wet Season (Summer-Autumn): More rainfall \rightarrow Lower desalination output, reduced power consumption

Dry Season (Winter-Spring): Less rainfall \rightarrow Higher desalination output, stable power and water supply





Desalination in Harmony with the Local Environment

A New Benchmark for Sustainable Operation







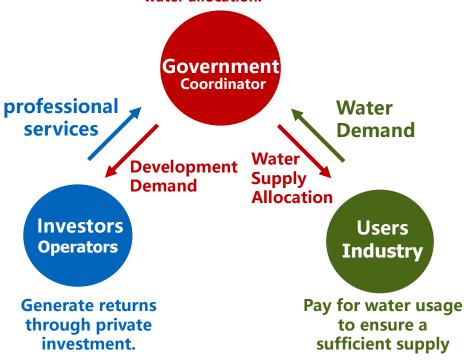




Future Desalination Plants Adopt the PPP Model



- Ensure a stable supply and drive regional development.
- Coordinate planning and water allocation.



Tripartite Win-Win PPP Model

4. Conculsion



Conculsion

Introducing International Technology — Driving Desalination Industry Growth

Adopting the latest RO technology improves efficiency, reduces brine discharge, and strengthens local desalination capability.

Diversified Water Sources — Reliable Supply

Desalination enhances stability and flexibility, ensuring uninterrupted water for industries.

Integrating with Local Environment — Driving Tourism Community Growth

Boosting the economy and local vitality by blending desalination plants into the landscape.

End of Presentation Thank you

Experience Sharing on the Promotion of Hsinchu Desalination Plant





Northern Region Water Resources Branch, WRA, MOEA

Director: Chiang, Ming-Lang



I. Project Overview

II. Experience Sharing

III. Conclusion









Approval of the project 核定計畫



2022/07/13

The environmental impact assessment passed after reviewing.

2023/04/27

The Executive Yuan approved the project with a total budget of NT\$12 billion.



• The water storage rate of Baoshan II Reservoir in Hsinchu dropped below 3%, in 2021.



PROJECT SITE



Main work items 主要工項



Intake, Discharge Pipe & Desalination Plant

- ♦ Intake Pipe: 1.6 km
- **◆** <u>Discharge Pipe</u>: 1.8 km
- Desalination Plant: 100,000 / day

Water pipeline & Water Distribution Tank

- **♦** Water pipe : 9.9 km
- **♦** Water Tank: storge 30,000 m³





Full life circle of the plant海淡廠生命週期



Construction

Trial operation

- year commissioning
- Construction of the **Desalination Plant**

Planning Work

Design Work

Construction of Intake and Discharge **Pipelines**

- Desalinated water quality should meet the standard in the contract(better than drinking water)

15yrs Operation

10yrs **Expansion**

- Operation, and Maintenance
- The amount of water will be adjusted according to the demand of WRA
- Minimum daily production: 10,000 cubic meters
- If the operational performance remains well for over 10 consecutive years, the turnkey contractor may continue the subsequent 10-year expansion O&M work.

oject period approved by the Executive Yuan>



Joint Venture contractors 統包團隊



Construction period



Main Project Items

- Basic and Detailed Design
- Desalination Plant Construction



Main Project Items

- Basic and Detailed Design
- Desalination Plant Construction
- Operation and Maintenance



Main Project Items

- Basic and Detailed Design
- Construction of Intake and Discharge Works

ECOVE 信鼎

Main Project Items

Desalination PlantOperation andMaintenance











Project timeline 計畫期程



Work Phases	Work Items	Project Timeline				
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Design and build	Intake & Discharge Pipelines		1 1			
	Desalination Plant					
	Water pipe & Distribution Tank					
Trial operation	Phase I					
	Phase I I		I I			

★Progress Status: <u>32.3%</u>

Vision Diagram 完工願景圖







Video of Vision









Procurement or PPP? 招商模式



• According to statistics from 2015, among large-scale desalination plants with a capacity of over 100,000 CMD around the world, 21 were implemented through procurement採購, while 18 were developed under PPP models促參.

Construction Phase: Financing



- > PPP: contractors face heavy financial pressure
- > Government Procurement: requires large short-term budget allocation

Operation Phase : Operation Cost



- ➤ The plant will mainly act as backup water supply 備援性質, often unable to run at full capacity.
- > Fixed water price 自來水價 makes true costs unrecoverable.
- ❖ Decided to proceed in accordance with the Government Procurement Act政府採購法, with the government owning and operating the facility, similar to reservoir.



Water supply mode 供水模式



- Direct supply to Hsinchu Science Park(EL.110m) requires high pumping power → low power efficiency.
- Serving only industrial users工業專管 lacks justification.
- ❖Integration into the regional water network自來水系統 improves drought resilience and public acceptance.





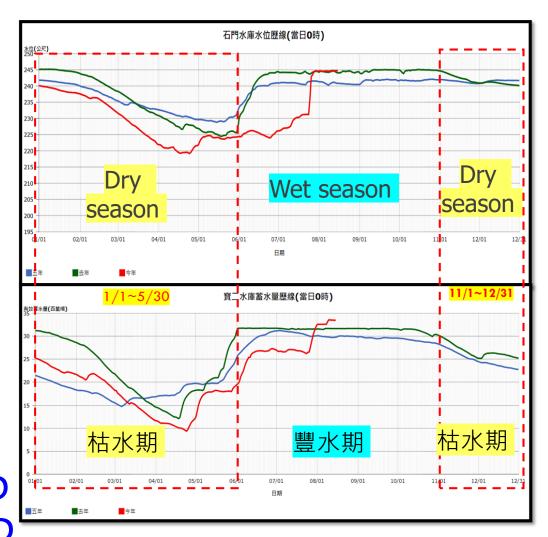
Water Production mode 產水模式



- Baoshan II Reservoir & Shihmen Reservoir
 → all share similar hydrological conditions.
- Large variations between wet and dry season:
 - > Wet season: Low demand for desalinated water.
 - > Dry season: High demand, which means the desalination plant should operate in maximize production to prevent shortages.

❖ Water Production mode :

Wet season (Jun. to Sep.): min 10,000 CMD Dry season (Nov. to May): max 100,000 CMD

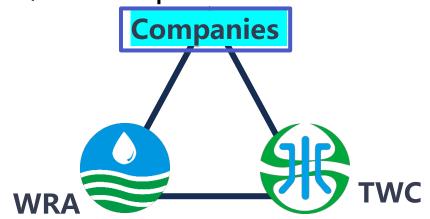




Operating Expenses 營運費用籌應



- ◆ The operating cost is around NT\$25~30 per ton, nearly three times the current tap water price.
- ◆ According to the Executive Yuan, the construction cost of the desalination plant is funded by the government, and the operating cost will be covered through corporate subscription企業認購.
- ◆ Six companies of the science park have signed the tripartite contract with the government and Taiwan Water Corporation, subscription rate100%.
- the government guarantees the priority of water supply to these 6 companies during drought season.





Procurement Strategy 採購策略 (1/2)



- The Executive Yuan only promised the construction budget, not included operating cost.
- Possible procurement alternatives:
 - Conduct separate procurements first for construction works, followed by a separate tender for operation and maintenance. 工程興建、操作維護分別發包
 - 2. Combine construction、operation & maintenance into one procurement 工程興建、操作維護合併發包
- Procurement Decision:
 - Desalination requires high technical expertise.
 - Corporate subscription is financially uncertain for procurement.
 - Splitting tenders may cause coordination issues.

G-

Procurement Strategy 採購策略 (2/2)



- ◆ The total cost amounts to nearly NT\$20 billion, including NT\$7.27 billion for construction and NT\$10.44 billion for operation and maintenance.
- ◆ Possible tendering methods under the Government Procurement Act: alternative 1: Open tender with the lowest bid passing evaluation criteria. 公開招標評分及格最低標
 - alternative 2: Open tender with the most advantageous bid (best-value selection).公開招標最有利標
- Procurement Decision
 - First large desalination project by the WRA —symbolic value.
 - Taiwan is not familiar with large desalination plants.
 - Required joint tender between local and international partners.



Turn resistance into driving force(1/2) 化阻力為助力



1. Before constructiong 施工前: Relief and Compensation for the Impact on fishermen's livelihoods 漁業補償

Affected Parties:

Hsinchu Fishermen Union Members

Number of People Affected: 12,815

Number of Vessels Affected: 458

Area of Impact: 9.3 km²

- □ Compensation provided equivalent to that for exclusive fishery rights
- Multiple rounds of communication and negotiation conducted
- Relief payments totaling NT\$175 million
- ☐ Disbursed before construction commencement





Turn resistance into driving force(2/2) 化阻力為助力



2. Construction Phaseg 施工期: Assistance to Local Construction 周邊環境改善

- a total of NT\$274 million(3% of the direct cost of project)was allocated.
- The funding supports Hsinchu City Government to improve near environments and landscapes.

3. Operation 營運期: Support for Local Public Welfare Projects 公益支出

- A public welfare budget is allocated each year based on the water supply revenue of previous year. Approximately NT\$8 million is allocated annually as local subsidies, totaling NT\$200 million over the 25-year operation period.
- These funds are used to subsidize nearby local agencies, public schools, and public welfare organizations or groups.





Conclusion



- Hsinchu Desalination Plant is **the first large-scale desalination plant in Taiwan** and serves as a solution to stabilize public water supply in the Hsinchu area.
- The unit cost of desalinated water is higher than the tap water, and the industrial water usage accounts for a significant portion in Hsinchu, that makes it possible for corporate subscription to cover the O&M costs of the desalination plant.
- The smooth implementation of large-scale public construction projects depends on the support of local residents. Communicating to achieve the greatest consensus on compensation plays an important role at the beginning of the project.





Comprehensive Planning and Experience of Reclaimed Water Development in Taoyuan City

Presenter:

Department of Water Resources, Taoyuan LI, JIN-JING (Deputy Director General)

October 29, 2025







Water and Electricity in the Al Industry

黃仁勳抵台 談關稅戰稱台灣仍是科技生態系核心

2025/5/16 16:51 (5/16 20:53 更新)



(中央社記者吳家豪台北16日電)輝達(NVIDIA)執行長黃仁勳今天下午飛抵台灣,談到關稅戰議題表示,當全球經濟重整完成後,台灣仍會是科技生態系的核心,

因為這裡有許多聰明、具有創新精神的公司,他完全看好台灣會持續蓬勃發展。

≡ 🙂 聯合新聞網

即時熱門要聞 娛樂 運動 全球 社會 專題 地方 產經 股市 房市 健康 生活 文教 評論

OpenAI重金結盟超微遭遇難題!蘇姿丰認了「要先搞定這件事」

ChatGPT開發商OpenAI與美國晶片大廠超微6日敲定重磅協議,計畫未來數年部署總算力達6吉瓦的超微AI晶片。但龐大的運算規模也引發外界對電力需求暴增、可能造成缺電的疑慮。AMD執行長蘇姿丰對此表示,晶片部署時程將取決於OpenAI與超微「何時能取得足夠電力」,並強調一旦條件允許,雙方將立即推進部署。

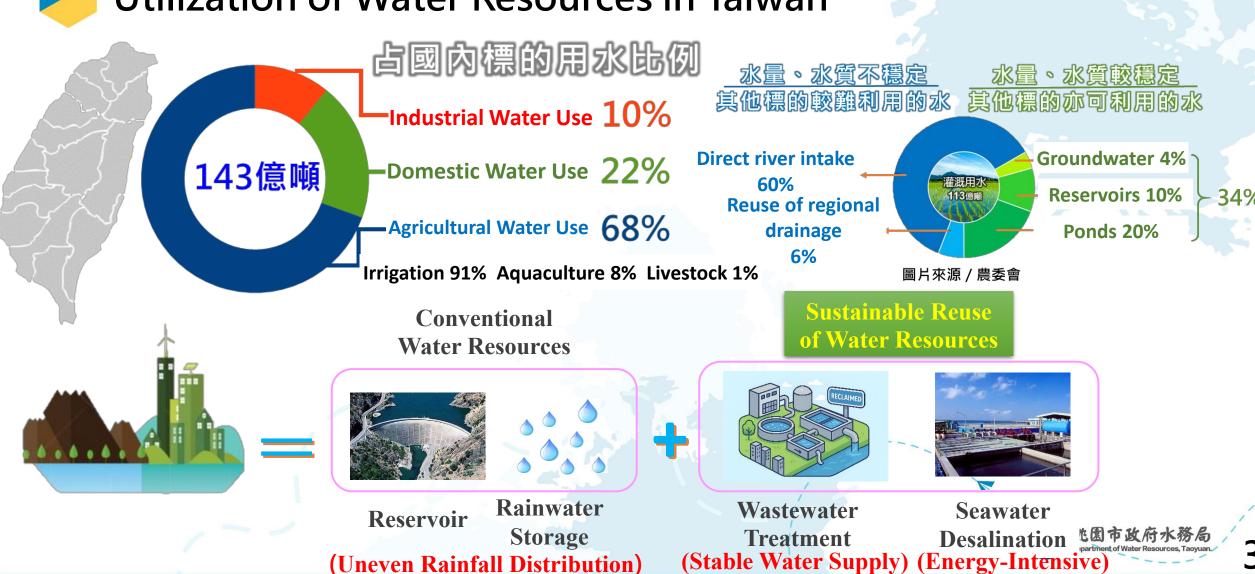


Chatting with AI also consumes water resources! about 500 milliliters of water for every 5 to 50 questions answered.





Utilization of Water Resources in Taiwan







General Information of Taoyuan City

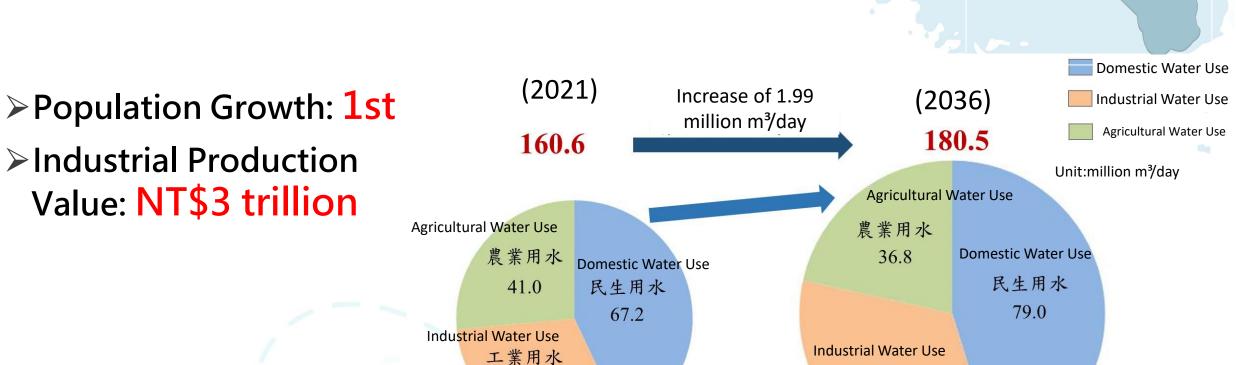


Area 1,197.20km²



工業用水

64.7



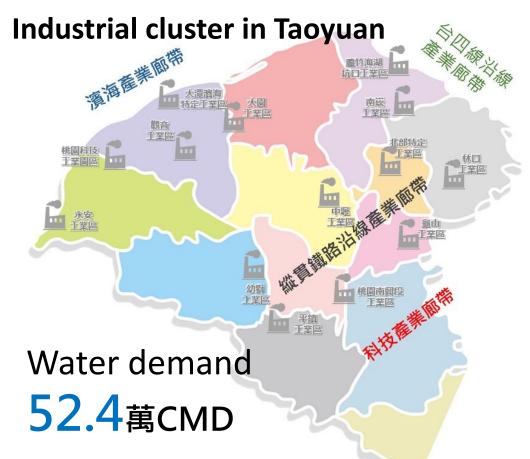
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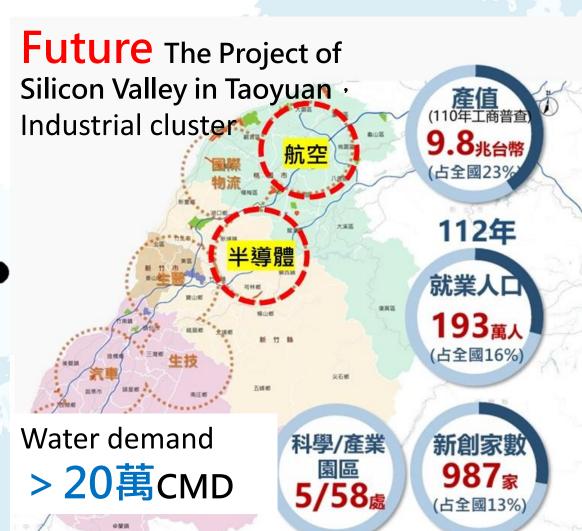




Industrial water use in Taoyuan City, Major challenge

NOW









Stable water supply is the key to economic growth.

01 Water Resource Development

- **Reclaimed Water**
- Groundwater
- Pond

04 Multiple Water Sources

- Industrial Reclaimed Water
- Treated Effluent for Agricultural Irrigation

Stable Water

Supply Planning

02 Water Conservation

- Groundwater Management
- Reuse of Industrial Water

03 Emergency Water Supply

- Reclaimed Water **Allocation**
- Operation of **Backup Wells**



Multi-Objective, Multi-Target, Multi-Level

Sustainable Water Resources







Reclaimed Water Promotion Strategy

Water Supply of **Taoyuan City via** Networked **Treatment Plants**

Smart Operations and Management Integrating IoT **Technology**



Providing New Water Value Through **Diversified Services**

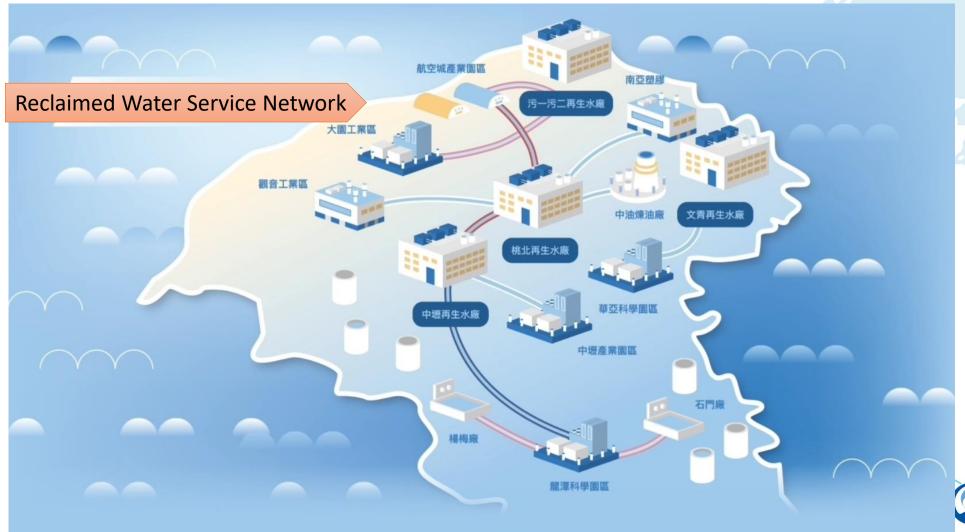
City-Wide Carbon Reduction Driven by the Net-Zero Trend







Establishing a Second Water Utility Company



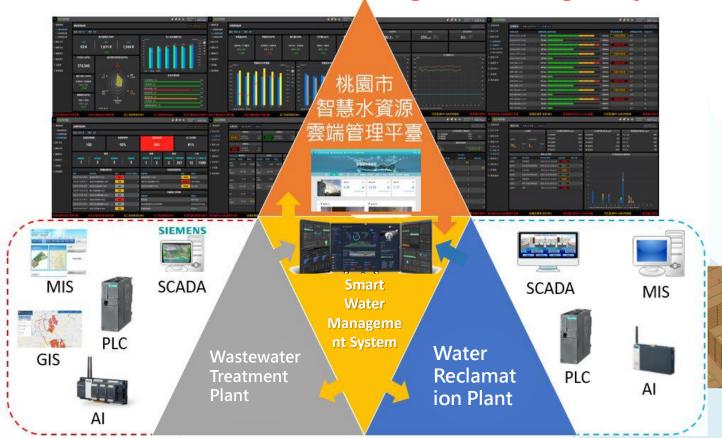




Real-Time Monitoring and Cloud-Based Response Ensure Stable Water Supply

Meet the 3S Objectives (Service, Smart, Sustainable) Automatic Monitoring System

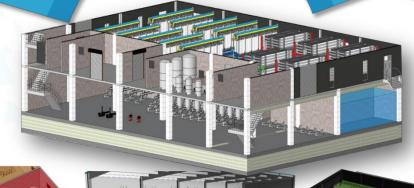
of National Land Management Agency



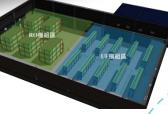
Equipment Operation And Maintenance

Automatic Control
System

Water Reclamation Plant







10





Water Resource Diversification



Green Areas

Cleaning

Recreation Industry

Product

Rice

Carbon Credits

Product
Micro Hydropower
Generation

Green Power
Carbon Credits

Hydrogen Energy

Energy







Industrial Reclaimed Water

Balancing Stable Water Supply Sources for Northern and Southern Taoyuan Industries



2025 桃北

The total supply is 112,000 CMD. Early supply 18,000 CMD in 2024. 1st supply 40,000 CMD in 2025. Supply CPC,NAN YA PCB, Guanyin Industrial Zone.



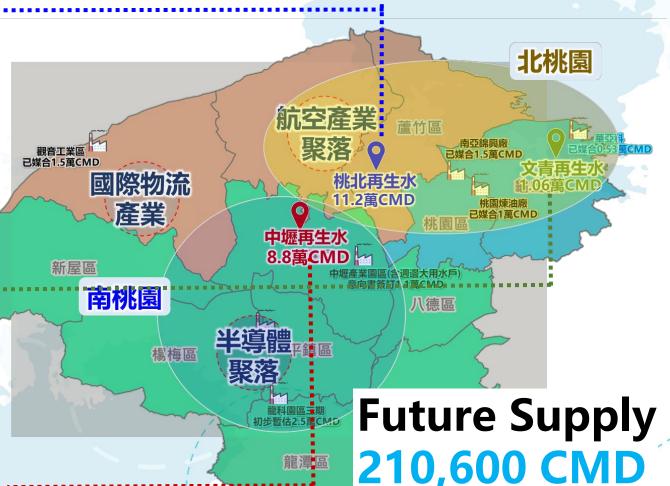
2027 文青

Turnkey concept design.
The total supply is 10,600 CMD.
1st supply 5,300 CMD in 2027.
Supply Huaya Technology Park.



2029 中壢

Feasibility assessment stage.
The total supply is 88,000 CMD.
1st supply 22,000 CMD in 2029.
Supply Zhongli Industrial Zone and Longtan Science Park.







Alternative Water Supply for Agriculture and the Recreation Industry



Agricultural Irrigation Using RO Concentrate Effluent with High Nutrient Content and No Heavy Metals

Ro Concentrate Water Quality Monitoring System

22.4~27.6	•油脂	3.7~4.4
6.6~7.2	•總磷	3.5~13.7
1311~1992	•正磷酸鹽	5.9~20.6
6.1~6.4	•氨氮	0.4~22.4
0.8~2.4	•硝酸鹽氮	29.3~47.4
2.3~2.5	•總氮	37.6~57.8
0.12~1.87	•有機碳	22.1~37.0
1.7~161	•化學需氧量	59.9~93.9
169~250	•濁度	02.~0.5
0.05~0.09		
	6.6~7.2 1311~1992 6.1~6.4 0.8~2.4 2.3~2.5 0.12~1.87 1.7~161 169~250	6.6~7.2 •總磷 1311~1992 •正磷酸鹽 6.1~6.4 •氨氮 0.8~2.4 •硝酸鹽氮 2.3~2.5 •總氮 0.12~1.87 •角機碳 1.7~161 •化學需氧量 169~250 •濁度

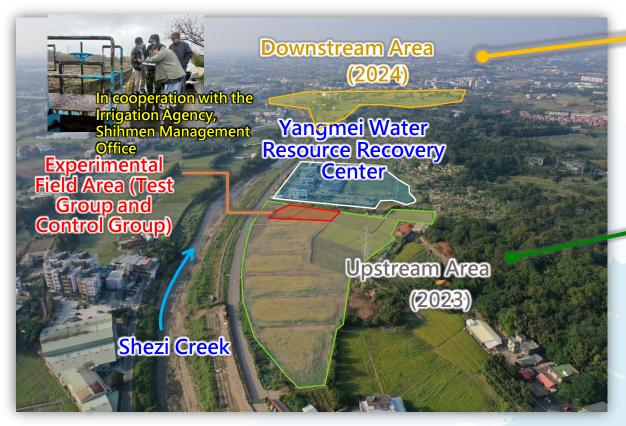




Treated Effluent for Crop Irrigation as a Substitute for Agricultural Water Treated effluent becomes an alternative water source

gricultural Water Treated effluent becomes an alternative water source for agriculture.

Conducting the Treated Effluent Irrigation Trials for Rice in the Yangmei Water Resource Center Demonstration Area



Downstream Area About 28ha

- ✓ Completed in December 2024
- ✓ Dedicated Pipeline Project
- Constructing New Waterways and Drawing Water by Suspended Pipes
- **Upstream Area** About 3.4ha
- ✓ Completed in February 2023
- ✓ Constructing New Water Storage Tank



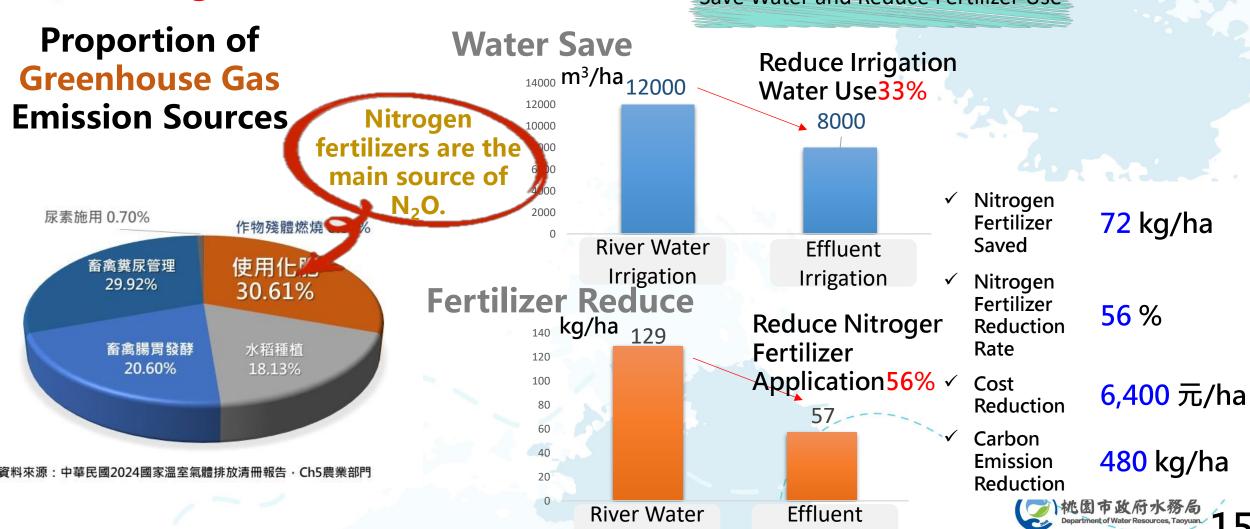


Service Diversification: Alternative Water Use (Treated Effluent)

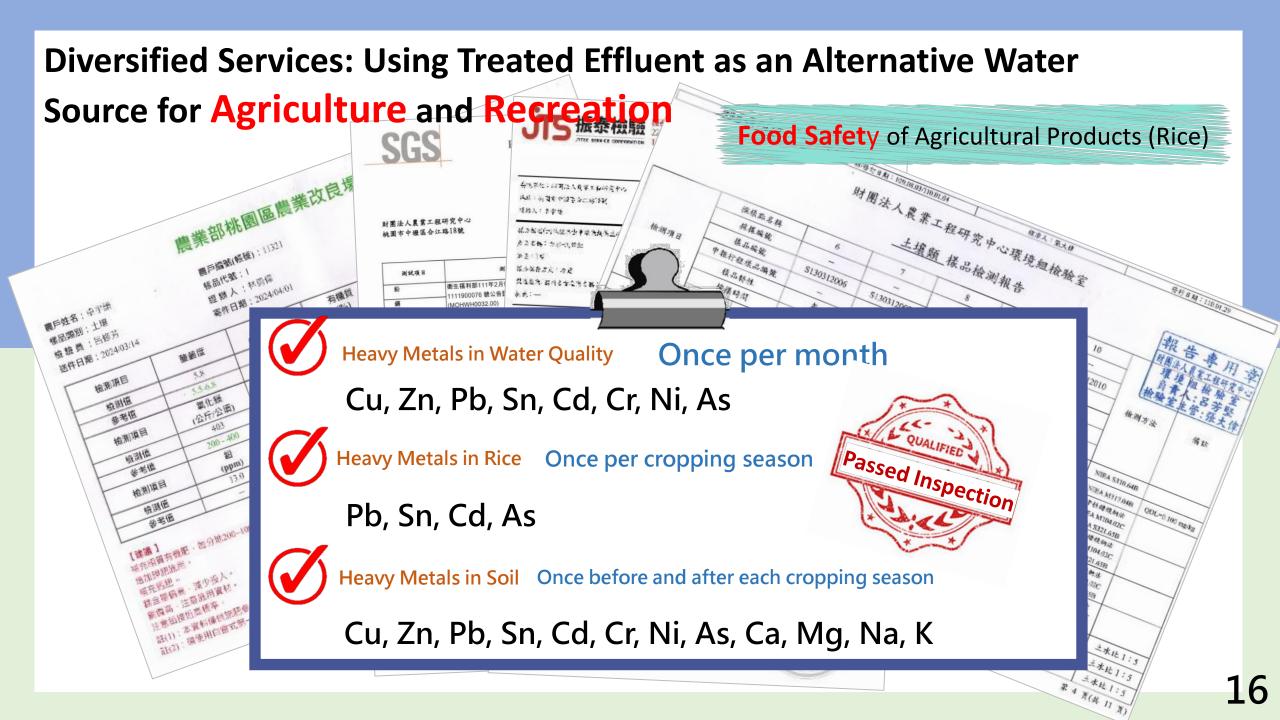
for Agriculture and Recreation

Save Water and Reduce Fertilizer Use

Irrigation



Irrigation







Carbon Reduction and Energy Saving

☑Conserve Water Resources

Irrigating rice fields with 6,600 CMD of treated wastewater reduces the need for groundwater and surface water.

☑Reduce Carbon Emissions

Irrigating farmland with reclaimed water saves energy and reduces 2,409 tons of

carbon emissions each year.





Zero Carbon by 2050

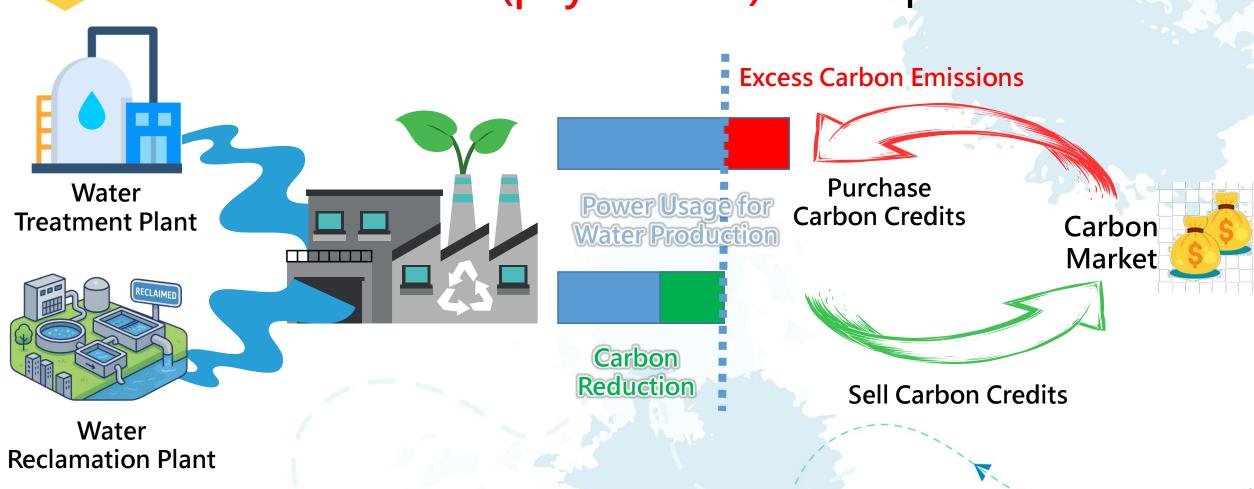
- 1. Water Conservation
- 2. Agricultural Sustainability
- 3. Energy Saving and Carbon Reduction
- 4. Carbon Trading







Carbon Reduction (pay less tax) of Companies

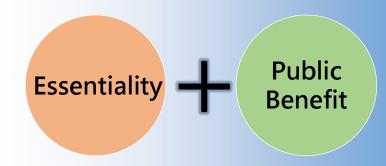


桃園市政府水務局 Department of Water Resources, Taoyuan





Conclusion: The key to sustainable water resources lies in reuse.





[Ensuring the Water Rights of All Citizens]

Treated effluent for agricultural irrigation and reclaimed water for industrial use to reduce the risk of drought

- [Protecting the Ecological Environment]
 Reduce pressure on rivers and groundwater extraction
- [Aligned with Global Trends]
 Implement water recycling management and move towards a net-zero sustainable society
- 4 **Create jobs and promote the circular economy**
- Promote social welfare and improve urban environmental quality and public services





Thank you for your attention.

