

NEWSLETTER OF THE SINGAPORE WATER ASSOCIATION

[Event] Saudi-Singapore Water Forum

24 Jan 2025, Mandarin Oriental, Singapore

Saudi-Singapore Water Forum took place at the Mandarin Oriental, Singapore, where over 120 participants from both nations gathered to exchange knowledge and explore collaborative opportunities in the water sector. The forum served as a strategic platform for knowledge exchange, investment opportunities, and

partnership development — focusing on key areas such as water resource management, desalination advancements, smart water solutions, and climate resilience.

Through panel discussions, keynote speeches, and networking sessions,

participants explored technologies and policy approaches to address global water challenges. The event reinforced the bilateral ties between Saudi Arabia and Singapore, paving the way for greater cooperation in sustainable water management.



[Event] SWA CNY luncheon

27 Jan 2025, Xi Yan Maxwell, Singapore

SWA ushered in the Lunar New Year with the SWA CNY luncheon 2025 on 27 Jan 2025 at Xi Yan Restaurant, Maxwell Chambers Suites. SWA council members, ESG representatives, Young Water Professionals (YWP) chair and vice-chair, and invited guests were present for the gathering to celebrate the festive season and strengthen industry connections. SWA president Chew Men Leong delivered opening remarks, highlighting the association's achievements and aspirations for the year ahead.





[Event] The 53rd Singapore Water Industry Nite (SWIN) and Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) industry reception

6 Feb 2025, Singapore Water Academy (SgWA), Pierce auditorium

The 53rd edition of SWIN — held in conjunction with SIWW industry reception — brought more than 200 water professionals, industry leaders, and partners for an evening of networking and collaboration. Hosted by SWA, the event provided a platform to foster connections, exchange insights, and celebrate collective progress in the water sector. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders and explore opportunities for future partnerships, reinforcing SWA's

commitment to driving innovation and sustainability in the water industry.

Charles Quek, SWA vice-president of general affairs, gave a welcome address to thank the industry for its continued support over the past year and shared updates on SWA key activities for the year ahead. SIWW managing director Ryan Yuen gave an update on SIWW Spotlight 2025 and the 41st International Association for Hydro-Environment

Engineering and Research (IAHR) World Congress, highlighting the business opportunities at both events. The evening concluded with a festive lo-hei and a buffet dinner.

SIWW Spotlight 2025 will be held from 23-25 Jun 2025 at Singapore EXPO, with joint sessions planned for both SIWW Spotlight and IAHR World Congress. Registration has opened on 15 Feb 2025.



UPCOMING SWA ACTIVITIES

[Trade fair] Water Philippines 2025

19-21 Mar 2025, Manila, Philippines

SWA is participating in Water Philippines 2025 — the international trade show for water, wastewater, and industrial solutions — taking place in Manila, Philippines on 19-21 Mar 2025. Running on its 7th edition, this event serves as a platform for industry leaders, technology

providers, and policymakers to exchange insights and foster collaborations in sustainable water management.

SWA will be representing Singapore's water sector alongside its members, showcasing

solutions and expertise in water and wastewater treatment, digitalisation, and climate resilience. Join us as we engage with regional stakeholders, explore new opportunities, and strengthen partnerships in the growing Philippines water market.

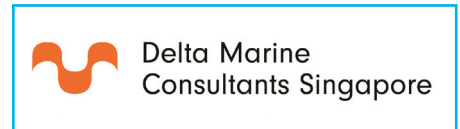


[Event] SWA 54th Singapore Water Industry Nite (SWIN)

11 Apr 2025

Sponsored by Delta Marine Consultants Singapore, the 54th SWIN is a networking event that combines professional engagement in a dinner setting. SWIN offers a platform for members, partners, and stakeholders to connect, share insights, and explore

opportunities for collaboration and innovation. Through keynote speeches, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities, SWIN showcases the industry's collective efforts in advancing water sustainability and addressing global water challenges.



[Event] Yangtze Delta River sustainability corridor mission

21-25 Apr 2025

The Yangtze Delta River sustainability corridor mission is an initiative aimed at fostering sustainable water management, environmental resilience, and cross-border collaboration in the Yangtze Delta region in Shanghai, China. Bringing together stakeholders from government agencies, industry leaders, and

research institutions, the mission seeks to promote water solutions, strengthen ecosystem sustainability, and enhance climate resilience.

This mission is co-organised by SWA, H2MO, and Sembcorp with support from Enterprise

Singapore, SingCham, and ES&TP (China). Through this engagement, SWA aims to foster knowledge exchange, explore business opportunities, and support sustainable water practices that drive long-term environmental and economic benefits for the region.

SWA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

(joined from January-February 2025)

Corporate – Coastal Protection and Flood Management (CPFM)

1. Asia Infrastructure Solutions Pte Ltd
2. CCCC Guangzhou Dredging Co Ltd
3. Expand Construction Pte Ltd
4. Gammon Pte Limited
5. MUSG Pte Ltd

Corporate

1. Aqoza Filtration Pte Ltd
2. Huawei International Pte Ltd
3. Lacroix Singapore Pte Ltd
4. TP-STM Water Resources Pte Ltd
5. Trident-Flo Pte Ltd
6. Waterlux Pte Ltd
7. ZWEEC Analytics Pte Ltd


2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

We look forward to your support in 2025. Download the event calendar:
<https://www.swa.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Calendar-of-SWA-Workplan-2025.pdf>

For queries, please contact SWA at 65150812 or enquiry@swa.org.sg.
To stay connected, visit <https://www.swamember.com/> and <https://www.swa.org.sg>. Follow us on Telegram, LinkedIn, Instagram and WhatsApp.

JOIN SWA

SWA welcomes organisations from the water and wastewater industry to join as either ordinary, associate or institutional member. Sign up at <https://www.swa.org.sg/membership/sign-up-online>.



BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

SWA Young Water Professionals (YWP) vice-chair **Peiqi Yeo** and National University of Singapore (NUS) PhD candidate **Clarence Cheong** share their individual pursuits to tackle South East Asia’s sea level rise and achieve coastal resilience.



Peiqi Yeo, SWA YWP vice-chair

Peiqi Yeo, vice-chair of SWA YWP, reflects on her experience at the Xiamen Symposium on Marine Environmental Sciences (XMAS 2025) — where history, heritage, and the vital pursuit of coastal resilience come together.

A COASTAL ENGINEER’S REFLECTIONS IN XIAMEN, CHINA

Last week, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in a symposium that revealed just how much the coastal world connects us — through history, culture, and a shared future shaped by climate risk.

While many countries focus climate risk assessments on land area or population exposure, Singapore takes a broader approach, factoring in economic, ecological, and cultural values to create a balanced model that integrates development with conservation.

It is a global mission — solutions tested in one place ripple across oceans, bringing lessons and hope to others.

The XMAS 2025 brought together brilliant minds delving into research studies ranging from the ancient shorelines since the last ice age to projecting sobering sea-level rise scenarios at the end of the century.

The low-lying terrain and coastal proximity that once symbolised hope now mark vulnerability in the face of climate change. Rising seas, storm surges, and erosion pose significant threats to coastal communities worldwide.

This is why coastal protection is more vital than ever. It is not just about fortifying land; it is about safeguarding history, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

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Beyond these sessions, Yeo’s reflections at Xiamen shores highlight the historical ties between Xiamen and Singapore, from migration patterns to cultural connections — reminders of a shared past and a vulnerable coastal future.

As climate risks intensify, Singapore’s holistic approach to coastal protection, balancing economic, ecological, and cultural values, stands out. Yeo left Xiamen inspired by the global responsibility that coastal engineers and scientists share — to safeguard not only the land, but also the history, livelihoods, and ecosystems.



Clarence Cheong, PhD candidate, NUS

Innovating coastal protection: Clarence Cheong's mission to safeguard the future

A rising tide is threatening cities around the world.

The challenge of sea level rise is not some far-off scenario; it is happening now. It is forcing us to rethink how we protect our coasts, our cities, and our way of life.

For Cheong, a PhD candidate at NUS, this is a mission to tackle one of the toughest challenges of our time.

“Unlike general structures, coastal structures are less explored and come with new challenges from climate change. It is exciting to be part of a long-term solution that is still evolving,” he said.

Cheong started his career as a structural design consultant. He realised the problems faced today demand more complex solutions — calling for expertise and creativity. This led him to pursue a PhD, where he could dive deeper into the design of coastal protection structures that matter.

BUILDING FOR AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Here is a dilemma one may not have thought about: How do we prepare for rising seas without overbuilding today? Massive sea walls might seem like the answer, but they are expensive, inflexible, and often a poor fit for space-constrained cities like Singapore.

What if coastal structures could adapt incrementally, like water treatment plants (WTPs) that scale up over time? It is about building smarter, not bigger.

This forward-thinking approach avoids overcommitting resources and leaves room for adjustments as the future unfolds. It is practical, sustainable, and exactly the kind of mindset we need.

Cheong also brought an unexpected skill to the table. During his consulting days, he developed experience in cost estimation. He is not only designing solutions, but also ensuring they are realistic and scalable in the real world.

It is one thing to come up with innovative ideas, but they must work in practice. Cost and feasibility are just as important as the technical details.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Cheong's work has ripple effects far beyond Singapore. Coastal cities worldwide are facing the same questions about how to adapt to rising seas without sacrificing their way of life. His work may offer a roadmap — not only for survival, but also for thriving in the face of climate challenges.

“At the end of the day, it is about protecting people and ensuring future generations can live safely in coastal cities,” he added.

Cheong's journey reminds us that bold challenges need innovative thinkers. Coastal protection is becoming one of the biggest opportunities on the global stage. How can you contribute to shaping the solutions of tomorrow? Whether you are in research, policy, or industry, there is a place for you in this story.