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SINGAPORE'S DEEP TUNNEL SEWERAGE SYSTEM WINS GLOBAL WATER AWARDS 2009



Another feather in the cap for PUB as its Deep Tunnel Sewerage System (DTSS) beats three other competitors to emerge Water Project of the Year.

Singapore's Deep Tunnel Sewerage System (DTSS) is fast gaining recognition on the global water stage with its second international award in less than a year.

Crowned 'Water Project of the Year' at the Global Water Awards 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland last night, the DTSS was selected as the water project with the most significant contribution to water technology and environmental protection. The annual Global Water Awards is widely recognised as one of the most prestigious symbols of achievement in the global water industry.

Christopher Gasson, Publisher of Global Water Intelligence, organisers of the Global Water Awards said, "Singapore's Deep Tunnel Sewerage System is a visionary project whose value will be appreciated well into the next century. Only Singapore PUB has the foresight to invest on that timescale."

The \$3.65 billion (EUR \$1.86 billion) DTSS is Singapore's superhighway to meet its used water needs for the next 100 years. Conceptualised and managed by Singapore's national water agency, PUB, it was conceived as a cost-effective and sustainable solution to meet Singapore's long-term used water needs. The mammoth DTSS conveys used water from homes and industries through a 48-km long deep tunnel sewer that runs 20 to 55 metres below ground to a centralised water reclamation plant for treatment.

The heart of the DTSS, the Changi Water Reclamation Plant is a state-of-the-art used water plant capable of treating 800,000 cubic metres (176 million gallons) of used water a day to international standards. The treated used water is then discharged into the sea through deep sea outfalls or channelled to the Changi NEWater factory on the rooftop of the reclamation plant where it is further purified through advanced membrane technologies into NEWater, Singapore's own brand of reclaimed water.

Attending the awards ceremony graced by Mr Al Gore, 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winner and former Vice President of the United States last night, PUB's Chief Executive Khoo Teng Chye said, "The DTSS is an integral part of Singapore's water management as it allows every drop of used water to be collected, treated and further purified into NEWater. The Changi Water Reclamation Plant itself is a showcase of an effective water solution for cities, especially those that face water demand and pollution challenges. Integrating the NEWater plant with the water reclamation plant allows for efficient large-scale water recycling, thus ensuring the sustainability of NEWater."

The benefits of the DTSS are manifold. With the DTSS, land used to site the existing water reclamation plants and its buffer zones, as well as pumping stations will be freed up for other developments. The deep tunnel works entirely by gravity, eliminating the need

Aerial view of the Changi Water Reclamation Plant, the heart of the Deep Tunnel Sewerage System. The plant will be opened officially in June this year during the Singapore International Water Week.



Caption: Different sections of the 48km deep tunnel are designed in different colours, so that any maintenance required for a section of a tunnel can be easily identified.

