



Joint News Release

SINGAPORE TO PARTNER THE GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN, INDIA, TO DEVELOP CAPABILITIES IN URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

**25 February 2015 (Wednesday)
City of Jaipur, Rajasthan, India**

The Singapore Cooperation Enterprise and Temasek Foundation, Singapore today announced the official launch of a programme between Singapore and the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Rajasthan, India, to build capabilities of government officials in Rajasthan in sustainable water project management. The 18-month programme is supported by Temasek Foundation with a grant amount of SGD \$420,508 and co-funded by the Public Health Engineering Department with an amount of SGD \$271,028.

At a ceremony held in the city of Jaipur today, a Grant Agreement was signed between Mr. Dinesh Kumar, Secretary of the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Rajasthan and Mr. Kong Wy Mun, Chief Executive Officer of Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, to mark the launch of the programme. It was witnessed by Ms. Vasundhara Raje, Honourable Chief Minister of Government of Rajasthan, Mr. C. S. Rajan, Chief Secretary of Government of Rajasthan, Mr. K Shanmugam, Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs and for Law, and Mr. Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Foundation, Singapore. The launch ceremony was part of Mr. Shanmugam's visit to India on 24-26 February 2015.

The demand and supply of safe drinking water have always been a critical issue in many countries. In the state of Rajasthan, the Government has been aggressively building an extensive network of major drinking water projects to meet the growing demand-supply gap and continuing its efforts to improve the performance efficiency of water infrastructure and technology.

Ms. Vasundhara Raje, Chief Minister Rajasthan said: ***“With 10% of India’s area and only 1.16 % of its water resources, conservation of water resources is vital for the future of Rajasthan. Urban & rural drinking water supply systems in the state depend heavily on ground water resources. Water required for agriculture is also mostly drawn from ground water. Due to rapid growth of population and industrialization in the state, water demand is increasing. Although the state has started executing Surface Water based projects, it is important to focus on water conservation, recycling and reuse.*”**

I am happy to note that the process, which we had started during my visit to Singapore, is resulting in this agreement today. This partnership will focus on building capacities and knowledge in sustainable water management and waste water reuse within the government. It will also result in development of Water Recycle and Reuse Strategic Plan for Jaipur City, feasibility Study for a Specific Water Recycle and Reuse Plant for Jaipur City and the Conceptual Design Report.

I expect that after this program, we will be able to implement the best practices in water recycling and reuse in Jaipur City and other parts of the state. This partnership is something we value highly.”

In light of this, the programme will enable the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, as the lead agency, to aggregate a team of Singapore experts from relevant public and private sectors to share Singapore’s experience with the Government of Rajasthan to support its future implementation of water recycle and reuse of plants in the city of Jaipur.

A series of customised workshops will be conducted to build capabilities of 100 officials from Public Health Engineering Department and various relevant government departments. Following the launch ceremony, the first workshop commenced in Jaipur on 25–26 February 2015.

This programme falls under the ambit of the Terms of Reference (TOR) that was signed in October last year, between SCE and the Government of Rajasthan, which covers a few initial areas of collaboration, such as urban water management and governance of waste water treatment and water management.

Mr. Kong Wy Mun, Chief Executive Officer of SCE said: ***“Today marks the start of our programmes in key areas of interest identified between SCE and Rajasthan since last October. For this first programme, we believe that Singapore’s experience in its water management practices would facilitate the Government of Rajasthan’s objectives towards achieving a successful and sustainable urban water management system. We look forward to more cooperation opportunities with Rajasthan in the future, and believe that our partnership represents yet another example of close bilateral ties shared between India and Singapore.”***

Mr. Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Foundation added, ***“Water is a precious resource for human development. With more effective water management policies and practices in place, urban cities will better ensure sustainability in water supply in the long run. Through Temasek Foundation’s support for this programme, we hope that the knowledge exchange between the officials from Rajasthan’s Public Health Engineering Department and Singapore will draw useful lessons in developing water management solutions to benefit the local community in Rajasthan.”***

Note to Editor:

About Temasek Foundation, Singapore

Temasek Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth and a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that build people through health care and education, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through governance and ethics, programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters.

For more information, visit www.temasekfoundation.org.sg

About Singapore Cooperation Enterprise

Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), now an integrated arm of International Enterprise Singapore, had been originally set up by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore to respond effectively to the multitude of foreign requests to tap on Singapore's development experience. SCE works closely with Singapore's 15 ministries and over 60 statutory boards to tailor possible solutions to match the foreign parties' needs. SCE also serves as the focal point of access to expertise across these public agencies.

SCE's main objective is to share Singapore's public sector expertise to interested foreign parties which can be government agencies or non-government entities. In doing so, we aim to build long-term partnerships with foreign parties and to generate business opportunities for Singapore's private sector.

For more information, visit www.sce.gov.sg

About Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Rajasthan, India

Public Health Engineering Department, Rajasthan is state government department of Government of Rajasthan (India) engaged in planning, execution, operation & maintenance of water supply schemes / projects for providing safe drinking water to all urban towns and rural habitations of the state. The department is headed by Minister, PHED. Principal Secretary, PHED is the administrative head of the department. A dedicated team of engineers and technical staff under guidance and supervision of eight Chief Engineers is working all over the state. Besides Operation and Maintenance of existing scheme, PHED is engaged in execution of 69 Surface water based Major projects, on completion of these projects 78 towns, 13245 villages and 11226 habitations shall be benefitted by drinking water.

For more information, visit <http://www.rajwater.gov.in/>

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