

## **Aquatech Shanghai and EU SME Centre-CEWP Seminars**

### ***Participation Recap***

**Date:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Venue:** National Exhibition and Convention Centre Shanghai (NECC SH)

**Conference:** Offline at NECC SH + Zoom (Online)

**List of Participants:**

Louise Lund, EU SME Centre, Amy Li, EU SME Centre, Nicolai Lundsberg, Danish Chamber of Commerce in China, on behalf of EU SME Centre, Matias Zubimendi, China IP SME Helpdesk, Liam Jia, EU SME Centre (moderator), Jingjing Ma, Nordiq China (speaker), Guillaume Gimonet, Siveco China (speaker), Jason Jie, Kruger A/S (speaker), Donald Di Ning, Arvia (speaker)

### **Summary**

On 2-4 June 2021, the EU SME Centre participated in the Aquatech China 2021 in Shanghai.

An EU SME Centre-CEWP booth was organized to represent European SMEs in the Water sector, display the recordings of previous CEWP webinars, provide to other European exhibitors face-to-face consultations with experts from the Centre and China IP SME Helpdesk, providing a platform for Chinese visitors and exhibitors to get in touch with their demands and challenges.

Two seminars on digitalisation and circular economy of the water sector had been held at the conference stage at the Aquatech in Shanghai as follow-up discussions of the webinar series organized previously in this year focusing on different perspectives of Urban Water management. In total, four webinars constituted the full series. They were followed by an aggregate of more than 300 participants from 20 countries including China, explored the management of the Urban Water Cycle in Europe and China. The webinars presented experiences and case studies and discussed various aspects of Urban Water Management including: blue-green and sponge cities, efficiency of water infrastructure, digitalization and water sector carbon footprint.

In total, the seminars had around 70 participants from both online and offline at the stage at Aquatech. In both seminars, the Setting the Scene speeches as well as the Company Technology presentations used the same main drivers of climate change, increased water demand from urbanization and industrialization, and pollution due to inadequate wastewater treatment and inefficient enforcement as main references for the challenges facing the water sector. Also, the main enablers were equal: digitalization and circular economy inspired solutions. As a continuation of the previous discussion held around digitalization and circular economy - in particular the link between water and energy solutions were central to most of the webinars.

### **Programme:**

D1 | 2<sup>nd</sup> of June (9hr – 16hr)

Booth at exhibition - Participation to the booth includes: CEWP-EU SME Centre, Danish Chamber of Commerce in China, Siveco (FR), Modern Water (IE), China IP SME Helpdesk, NORDiQ (DK)

D2 | 3<sup>rd</sup> of June (9hr – 17hr)

Booth at exhibition - Participation to the booth includes: CEWP-EU SME Centre, Danish Chamber of Commerce in China, Siveco (FR), Modern Water (IE), China IP SME Helpdesk, NORDiQ (DK)

Seminar Digitalisation of the Water Sector (14.00hr – 15.20hr)

- Main findings of CEWP/EU SME Centre Urban water webinar series 2021 – EU SME Centre
- O&M digitalisation of the Chinese water market – Siveco China
- IPR protection in digital transformation – China IP SME Helpdesk
- The Hubgrade smart water system – Kruger A/S

Seminar Circular Economie and the Water Sector (15.40hr – 17.00hr)

- Main findings of CEWP/EU SME Centre Urban water webinar series 2021 – EU SME Centre
- The China wastewater carbon neutrality path 2030/2060 – NORDiQ
- IPR protection in Circular Economie – China IP SME Helpdesk
- Circular economie and water treatment in China - Arvia

D3 | 4<sup>th</sup> of June (9hr – 16hr)

Booth at exhibition - Participation to the booth includes: CEWP-EU SME Centre, Danish Chamber of Commerce in China, Siveco (FR), Modern Water (IE), China IP SME Helpdesk, NORDiQ (DK)

### **Observations and takeaways:**

From the exhibition:

- Technologies from the Chinese exhibitors are catching up, particularly in smart water management. The solutions provided by Chinese companies can be more accurately providing an answer to the local demands.
- Some Chinese exhibitors (water purification systems, membrane, Water pumps) are eager to seek for exporting opportunities.

From the seminar/webinars:

- Digitalisation brings up the importance of breaking down the silos which has been addressed multiple times – both from a regulatory framework point of view and from a customer point of view
- More untapped opportunities will request an organizational change that digitalisation could possibly bring
- The conceptual move from WWTP to Water resources recovery factories has been not only promoted primarily in research & demo projects, but also in advanced larger scale water organisations.

- The implementation and stage execution of the environmental focuses of the 14 FYP is key to reaching several government targets.
- In both seminars, the Setting the Scene speeches as well as the Company Technology presentations used the same main drivers of climate change, increased water demand from urbanization and industrialization, and pollution due to inadequate wastewater treatment and inefficient enforcement as main references for the challenges facing the water sector.

### **Conclusion drawn:**

The urban water management webinars supported the observations made in other CEWP seminars and workshops that challenges facing the Water Sector could to a very large extent be addressed, if already existing solutions were fully utilized. Needs for technological innovation still exists. However, the main needs are for systemic innovation improving sector integration allowing for water supply and wastewater management to be monitored, analyzed, planned and managed by the same organizations, e.g. in order to facilitate increased reuse of water.

While state-of-the-art solutions are in general more costly, they have a significantly better O&M cost profile, whereas bulk solutions using simpler technologies are cheaper to procure. However, due to lack of adequate financing models, economic frameworks promoting long-term sustainability as well as inadequate regulatory frameworks, the cheaper solutions are preferred. Further, lack of full pricing based on true costs of ownership, also adds to the picture.

### **Recordings and Presentations**

Circular Economy and the Water Sector

<https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/event/2021-06-03/circular-economy-and-water-sector-aquatech-china-2021>

Digitalisation of the Water Sector in China

<https://www.eusmecentre.org.cn/event/2021-06-03/digitalisation-water-sector-aquatech-china-2021>

### **Contact**

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*Press contract*

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