# Water for All Conserve, Value, Enjoy Pub



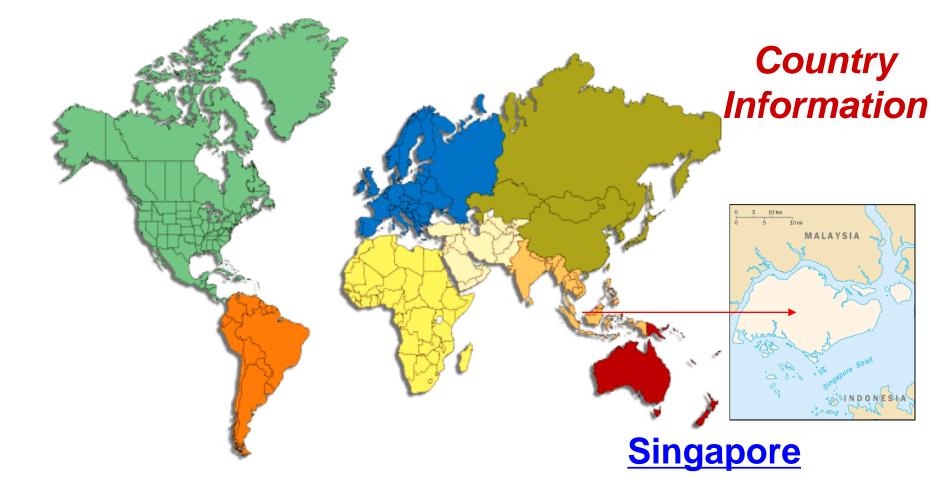
2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Health 27 – 29 Jan 2010 Manila, Republic of the Philippines

#### Water Reuse in Singapore

Wah Yuen Long
Director, Water Reclamation Plants Department
PUB Singapore

#### **Presentation Outline**

- Introduction
- Water reuse to complement other sources of water
- Water Reuse in Singapore
  - Development
  - For non direct potable reuse
    - Multiple Safety Barriers
    - Public Communication
  - For direct non potable reuse



Land Area
Population
Water Consumption

**707** km<sup>2</sup>

5 million

1.6 million m<sup>3</sup>/day

#### **PUB: Part of Singapore's MEWR Family**



To deliver and sustain a clean and healthy environment and water resources for all in Singapore.



To ensure a sustainable quality environment in Singapore

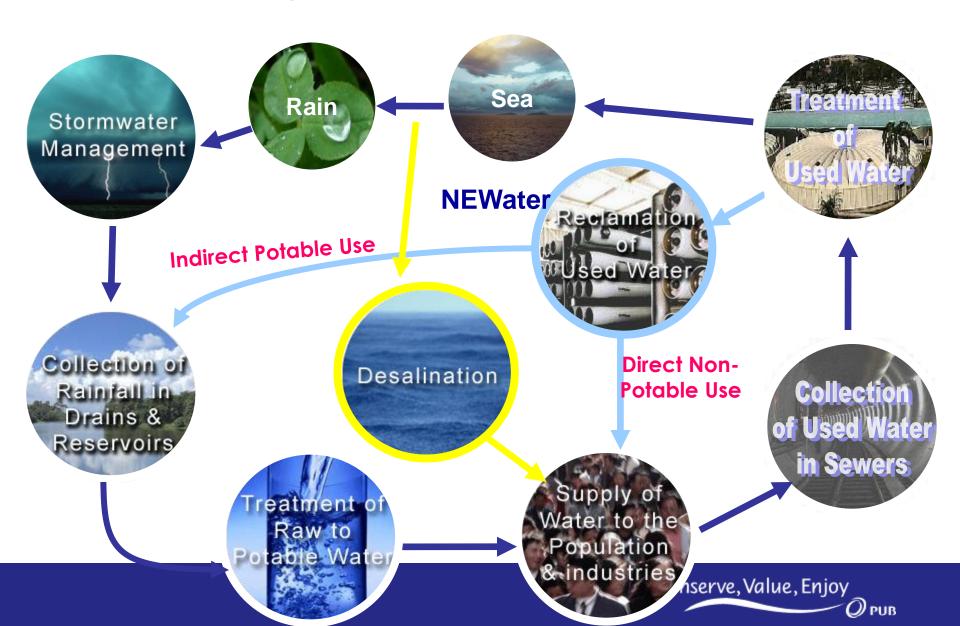
- Clean Land
- Clean Air
- ❖ Public Health



To ensure an efficient, adequate and sustainable supply of water

- \* Water Supply
- ❖ Used Water
- Drainage

# PUB (National Water Agency of Singapore) manages the complete water cycle



# **Sustainable Water Management**

"Water for All"

**4 National Taps** 

"Conserve, Value, Enjoy"

**3P Approach** 



**Supply** 

**Demand** 

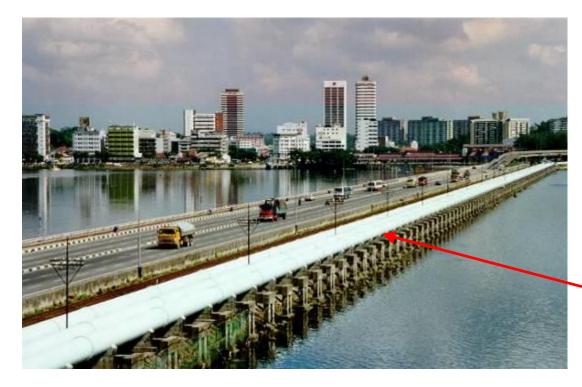
# FOUR NATIONAL TAPS



#### Large scale urban stormwater collection



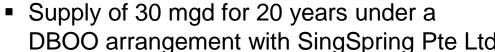
#### Imported Water from Johor, Malaysia

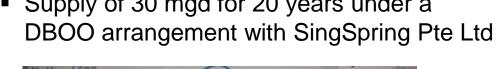


Pipelines carrying water from Johor

#### **Desalinated Water**

One of the largest seawater RO plants (opened in Sep 2005)



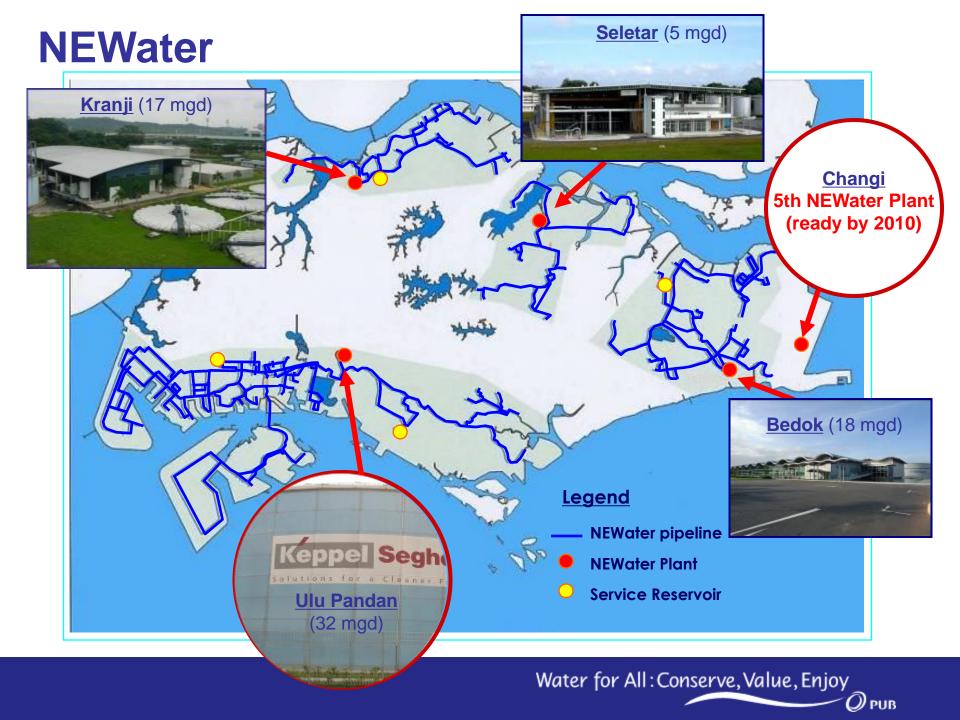


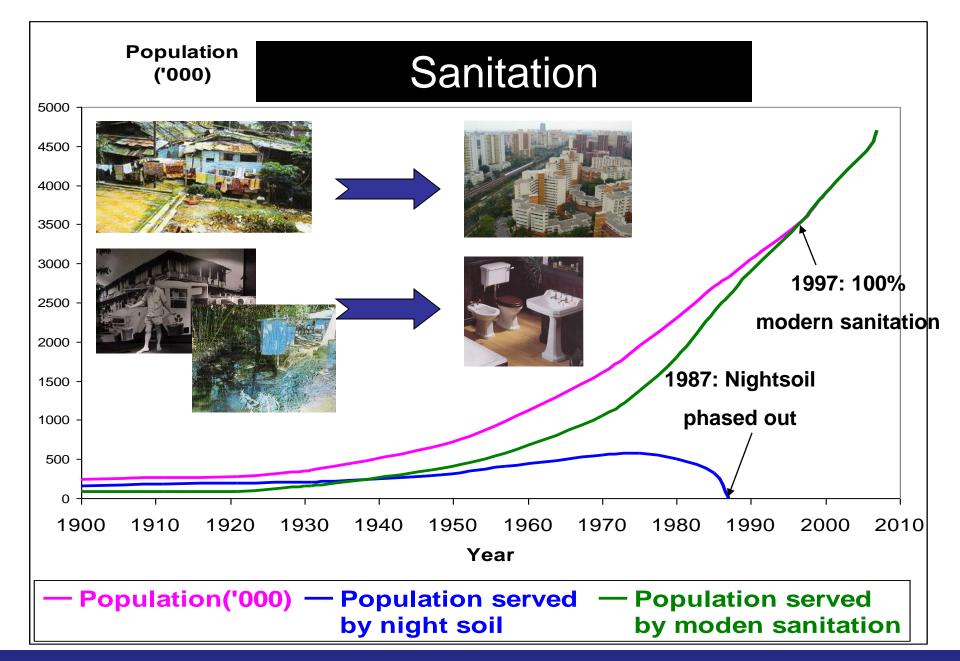
Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Look



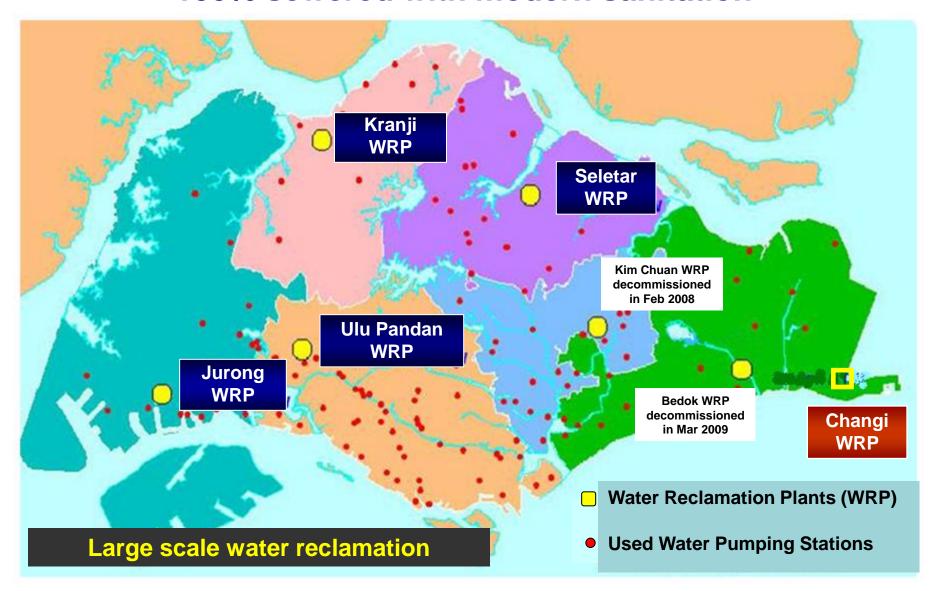








#### 100% sewered with modern sanitation



# Conceptualisation of NEWater

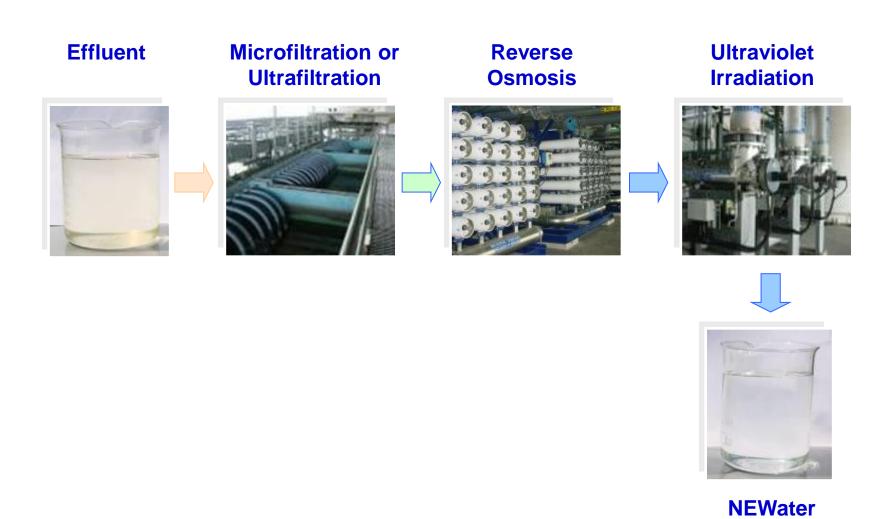
- A 2-year NEWater Study was initiated in 1998
- To ascertain the suitability of using NEWater as a source of raw water
- 2-year NEWater Study consists:



- i. 10,000 m3/d Demonstration Plant
- ii. Sampling and Monitoring Programme (SAMP)
- iii. Health Effect Testing Programme (HETP)

International expert panel audited and set up study protocol

#### **NEWater Treatment Process**



# Sampling and Monitoring Programme (SAMP)

More than 100,000 analysis to date



- 295 parameters tested, more than the 96 parameters stipulated by USEPA and 113 specified by WHO.
- Categories of parameters include, physical, inorganic, organic, radio-nuclides, pesticides / herbicides, used water signature compounds, synthetic / natural hormones.





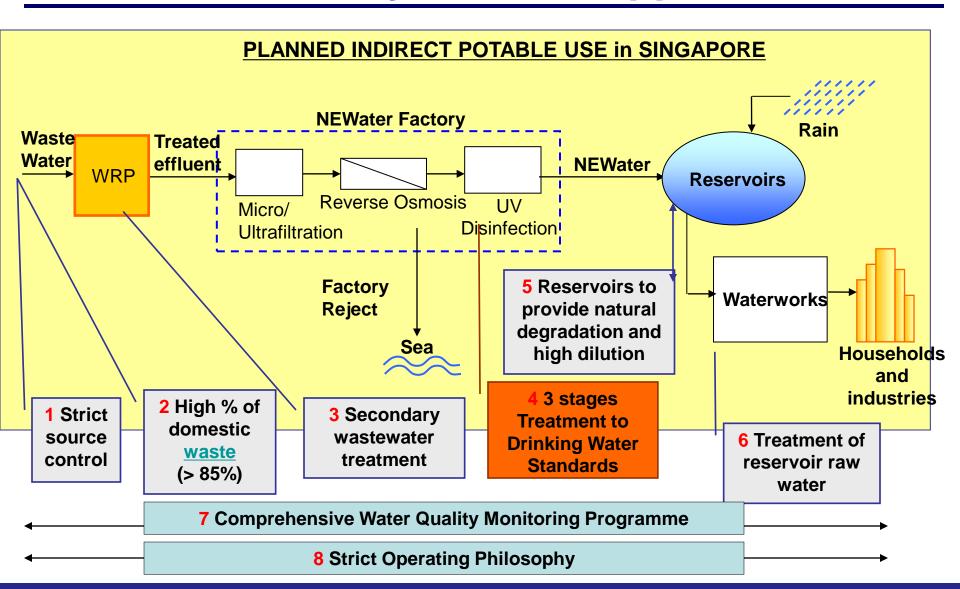
# Health Effect Testing Programme (HETP)

- Complements SAMP in determining the safety of NEWater
- Toxicological assessment of NEWater against reservoir water
- Short and long term health effects on two animal species
  - ✓ Mice Long term toxicity & carcinogenicity assessment
  - ✓ Fish Long term toxicity & carcinogenicity assessment, and estrogenic assessment (reproductive and development)

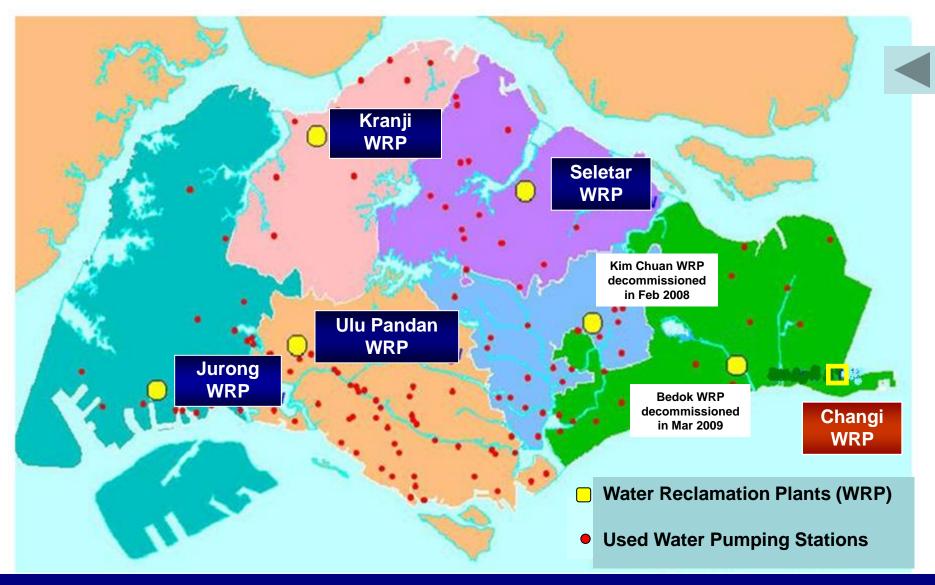
# International Expert Panel

- Comprises both local and foreign experts
- Involved in audit and set up of the study protocol and adoption of latest methodologies, analytical tools and best international practices
- Expert Panel concluded that
  - NEWater quality is well within international drinking water guidelines/standards
  - NEWater is suitable as raw reservoir water for IPU in accordance to international practice
  - No adverse health concerns were associated with IPU of NEWater
- Planned indirect potable use since end 2002
  - Blend with reservoir water
  - Multi safety barriers

# Multi Safety Barriers Approach



#### 2) High % of used water from domestic source



Domestic source accounts for more than 85% of used water treated in WRPs supplying to NEWater Factories

#### **Engaging the stakeholders**

- Communications with stakeholders is key to success of campaign
  - Media
  - Opinion leaders such as political leaders, water experts, grassroots leaders, business groups etc
  - Public
- Key messages:
  - NEWater is a safe and sustainable source of water supply for Singapore and meets WHO drinking water guidelines
  - NEWater will make the overall water supply system more resilient

#### **Public Sampling**

- NEWater bottled in attractive packaging for public sampling
- Distributed at grassroots and national events, and at NEWater Visitor Centre
- 1 million bottles reached in 100 days
- More than 16 million bottles distributed to date







#### **NEWater Visitor Centre**

- Pillar of public education campaign
- Officially opened in Feb 2003 by Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, then Prime Minister, together with opening of first 2 NEWater plants
- State-of-the-art water museum that explains the concept and technology behind NEWater and how it plays a part in Singapore's water strategy
- Multimedia animations and interactive touch-screens
- NEWater plant incorporated as part of the centre to enhance learning experience
- 700,000 visitors to date





#### **Endorsement by leaders**

 Top government officials including the then Prime Minister of Singapore showed their support by drinking NEWater publicly



#### **Public support for NEWater**

- Strong acceptance of NEWater by the public
- 60,000 Singaporeans toasted to NEWater at 2002 National Day Parade.
- Independent survey by Forbes Research at the end of 2002 confirmed the success of the programme.
  - 98 per cent acceptance rate, with 82 per cent of respondents indicating that they would drink NEWater directly and another 16 per cent would drink it mixed with reservoir water.





## **Key factors for success**

- Groundswell of support in early stages of campaign
- Engage media to be on its side
  - Result is fair and unbiased reporting

with reservoir water here and the mixture will be

This year, PUB is spending \$91 million to build

The two plants, which have a treatment capaci-

On average, 100 gallons of water are needed to

ty of 16 million gallon per day, will supply treated

Professor Ong Choon Nam, director of the

Others in the punel include medical doctors

Centre for Environmental and Occupational

Health Research, heads the nine-member.

further treated to be used as drinking water.

two NEWater plants at Bedok and Kranis.

water to wafer faba by the end of the year.

States for more than two decades.

produce a single 20cm water.

This process has been used in the United

Public endorsement by the country's leaders and water experts



Then, some

Newater... PM's verdict?

cool

The Straits Times, 23 May 2002

### Good as new

Experts say reclaimed water is of high quality

by Chan Chao Peh bacons b Prospector fav. com a

AFTER a two-year study, a panel of experts has given NEWater their stamp of approval.

Produced by the Public Utilities Board (PUB), this reclaimed water is the end product of a series of treatment on used water.

The purification process includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and the use of ultra-violet technologies.

The nine-member panel, made up of international and local experts, said that NEWster is consistently of high quality and is well within the regardements set by the United States. Environmental Protection Agency and the World

"The panel has therefore endorsed NEWster as a safe and sustainable source of water for Singapore," said PUB yesterday.

and experts from the chemistry and microbiology

BY WOON WUI TEE

OU'VE heard of the "Peper Challenge": Can you really pick out a given brand of cola if offered a selection - brands

This morning, after a tennis workout at the Istana, Prime Minister Gob Chok Tong smilingly

suggested a "Newster Challenge "I suggest three or four brands (of water), close your eyes, a blind test," he told reporters on the court.

"(You) wouldn't know which is Newster. Try it on your editors." He then took a swig of Newster out of a bottle and said: "Cool. Very good."

Earlier, he said, he had been able to detect a taste slightly different from PUB water: Newater is so clean, it has no minerals.

"Drinking it colder, I can't tell the He said many MPs had asked for

Newster for National Day dinners and that 60,000 hottles will be given

out at the National Day Parade When reporters arrived roughly at 7.40 nm, PM Gob had been

Newater proves to be a smash hit with PM Goh

playing an energetic game. Then, downing Newster and wiping away sweat, he confirmed that Malaysia-Singapore discussion on water pricing, as part of a larger package of issues, will take place again next month.

We have our own water," he said, adding that in his own view, he would like to buy some water from Malaysia and maintain good relations, "But both sides must agree on a price... on willing-buyer and willing-seller basis.

The formula must be one that can stand scrutiny. We think pegging it to our alternative source the best way. Treated until it's cleaner than tap

enter, Newater was doclared safe to drink on July 11.



In April, Mr Goh had estid The New Paper, 1-2 August 20

Water for All: Conserve, Value, Enjoy

#### **Water Reuse**

- Potable Reuse
  - Indirect
  - Through potable water network
- Non Potable Reuse
  - Direct
  - Through separate network

#### Non Potable Use

- Major uses
  - Wafer fabrication and electronic process
  - Process cooling & boiler feed
  - Air-con cooling
- Reduce demand for potable water









#### Conclusion

- Water reuse provides another source. It has also a multiplying effect through using the drop of water more than once
- Multi safety barriers approach adopted in NEWater production ensures that it is safe for planned indirect potable use
- Support from stakeholders are critical
- Direct non potable use can reduce demand for potable water

#### **Singapore International Water Week 2010**

Sustainable Cities: Clean & Affordable Water

- 28 June 2 July 2010)
  - Water Leaders Summit
  - Water Convention
  - Water Expo
  - Business Forum
  - Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize

#### **World Cities Summit 2010**

**Liveable & Sustainable Cities for the Future** 

28 – 30 June 2010























