



communiqué de presse

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TO MARK WORLD WATER DAY ON 22 MARCH 2015, SUEZ environnement IS ONCE AGAIN SETTING OUT ITS COMMITMENT TO SECURING ACCESS AND PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES

For World Water Day, established by the United Nations and focused this year on “water and sustainable development”, SUEZ environnement is once again setting out its commitment to ensuring access to water and protecting resources in line with its Sustainable Development roadmap for 2012-2016.

One of the major challenges for the 21st century is to supply quality water in sufficient quantities, while guaranteeing sustainable supplies. So these challenges need to be met, even in water-stressed regions¹.

“SUEZ environnement’s business activities are centred around preserving, producing and treating one of the most vital resources: water. Resources can no longer be used without any constraints as part of a linear economy. We are at the dawn of a revolution: industrial and ecological, local and global, individual and collaborative. This is the Resource Revolution. We need to preserve, value and ensure the long-term viability of the resources that are essential for our future, applying the principles of the circular economy”, confirms Jean-Louis Chaussade, Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ environnement.

As part of its Sustainable Development roadmap for 2012-2016, the Group has set itself a priority to develop solutions to facilitate access to water for everyone, while working to protect this resource. These sustainable development commitments will serve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will be adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015.

SUEZ environnement is implementing solutions to secure the right to water worldwide, meeting challenges such as access to water, protecting resources and socially inclusive water pricing.

Access to water and sanitation remains a crucial issue of current concern in many countries. According to data from the WHO², 780 million people around the world still lack access to safe drinking water, while 2.6 billion people do not have access to sanitation services. Since 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were defined, SUEZ environnement’s deployment in emerging countries has made it possible to connect 14.1 million people to drinking water services and 7.1 million people to sanitation services.

¹ A region is considered to be "water stressed" when its water resources represent less than 1,700 cu.m/person/year and is classed as facing a "water shortage" when its water resources drop below 1,000 cu.m/person/year.

² World Health Organization

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In India for instance, while water consumption is expected to double by 2050 and the country faces a strong level of urbanisation and water stress, the municipal authorities in Mumbai have called on SUEZ environnement to improve the water distribution service for 12.5 million people, aiming to ensure 24/7 water supplies for inhabitants, while improving services in the city's slums.

SUEZ environnement is helping preserve water resources by developing alternative resources such as reusing wastewater: for example, Jordan is experiencing strong demographic growth, but has one of the world's lowest levels of water resources. In 2012, SUEZ environnement signed a public-private partnership agreement to expand the wastewater treatment plant in its capital Amman. This project, which will be finalised in 2015, will make it possible to increase the plant's capacity from 267,000 to 365,000 cubic metres per day, to meet the needs of an estimated population of 3.5 million people, representing nearly 35% of the country's total population. The volume of treated water produced by this plant will be equivalent to nearly 10% of national water resources; all the water obtained in this way may be reused for irrigation and agriculture after treatment.

Lastly, water is a free resource, but there are costs associated with processing and distributing it, as well as with treating wastewater. All those working in the water industry have a shared responsibility to ensure that these costs are affordable for everyone, particularly in countries where access to water is no longer an issue. In France, SUEZ environnement sealed a partnership with the national association of multi-service mediation and information points (Union Nationale des Points Information Médiation Multi-Services) in 2014. In a difficult economic environment, these points enable users in precarious situations to benefit from individual support to manage their water consumption more effectively and better understand their bills.

SUEZ environnement

We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. In a world facing high demographic growth, runaway urbanisation and the shortage of natural resources, securing, optimising and renewing resources is essential to our future. SUEZ environnement (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies drinking water to 92 million people, delivers wastewater treatment services to 65 million, collects waste produced by almost 50 million, recovers 14 million tons of waste each year and produces 5,138 GWh of local and renewable energy. With 80,990 employees, SUEZ environnement, which is present on all five continents, is a key player in circular economy for in the sustainable management of resources. SUEZ environnement generated total revenues of €14.3 billion in 2014.

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