



For More Information

Contact: Ann Seamonds
978-887-9959
seamonds@seamonds.com

INTERNATIONAL DESALINATION ASSOCIATION CONFERS INAUGURAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

SINGAPORE, July 7, 2008 – The International Desalination Association (IDA) has selected Mr Salah Ibrahim Al-Khamis, Saline Water Conversion Corporation, Saudi Arabia, and Mr Jorge A. Arroyo, Texas Water Development Board, USA, as recipients of its inaugural IDA Fellowship Award. The goal of the IDA Fellowship Program is to facilitate the advancement of global expertise in desalination and water reuse through the exchange of talents, knowledge and skills. The Fellowship Awards were presented during the Singapore International Water Week.

IDA has chosen PUB, Singapore’s national water agency, as the hosting agency for the inaugural IDA Fellowship Award. Each of the inaugural IDA Fellows will be awarded 10,000 USD from the IDA Foundation, and undergo an eight-week attachment with PUB. Additional financial assistance to cover in-country living expenses during the Fellows’ attachment will also be sponsored by PUB.

Ms Lisa Henthorne, President of IDA, said, “PUB’s continuing involvement and commitment to desalination and water re-use has made it the natural choice as the hosting agency for the IDA Fellows. We are confident that both Mr Al-Khamis and Mr Arroyo will benefit tremendously from the two-month attachment with PUB as it is internationally recognized for its efforts in the use of technology to resolve its water challenges by recycling water on a large scale.”

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In 2005, Singapore opened its first seawater reverse osmosis desalination plant, one of the largest in the region with a capacity of 30 million gallons of water per day. Singapore is also leading the way globally in large-scale water reuse. NEWater, a product pioneered by PUB, is treated used water that has undergone stringent purification and treatment process using advanced dual-membrane (microfiltration and reverse osmosis) and ultraviolet technologies. NEWater could be mixed and blended with reservoir water and then undergo conventional water treatment to produce drinking water.

“We are very pleased that the first two IDA Fellows were conferred during the inaugural Singapore International Water Week, which attracted more than 5,000 international delegates to Singapore. The news has certainly created a buzz in the water industry,” said Khoo Teng Chye, PUB Chief Executive, Chairman of the IDA Foundation Committee and a member of IDA’s Board of Directors. “Both Mr Al-Khamis and Mr Arroyo bring extraordinary experience, dedication and professionalism to the IDA Fellowship program. We are confident that their work with PUB will result in incredible opportunities to gain new insights and share information that will benefit the desalination and water reuse industry worldwide,” he added.

Selection criteria for the Fellowship program included professional achievements, relevant experience in the field of desalination and water reuse, and the potential to make a significant contribution to desalination and water reuse in particular, and to the field of water and waste water in general.

About the IDA Fellows

Mr. Salah Ibrahim Al-Khamis is Marine Biology Specialist, Department of Ecology and Marine Biology, at Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC) in Saudi Arabia. In addition to his active involvement in numerous field research projects, Mr. Al-Khamis has conducted training programs on the environment and marine biology for SWCC engineers and has headed various technical committees. He was selected from more than 1,000 applicants to participate in SWCC’s newly introduced Future Leaders Program.

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Mr. Al-Khamis holds a Bachelors Degree in Marine Biology from the College of Marine Science, King Abdul Aziz University of Saudi Arabia. His papers have been published in the proceedings of numerous conferences and symposia. A member of the International Desalination Association, he is a frequent presenter at conferences and meetings on desalination and water treatment topics.

Mr. Jorge Arroyo, P.E., is Innovative Water Technologies (IWT) Director at the Texas Water Development Board. The IWT group is responsible for implementing the Texas Seawater and Brackish Groundwater Desalination initiatives, and its charges also include water reuse and rainwater harvesting. Earlier in his career, Mr. Arroyo was a Team Leader at the Texas Water Commission, Manager of the Special Development Fund at the United States Agency for International Development, and also held various positions within the Costa Rica Water and Sewage Agency.

Mr. Arroyo received his degrees in Construction Management (M Sc) from the Loughborough University of Technology in England, and in Civil Engineering (Water and Sanitation Program) from the University of Costa Rica. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas and the Republic of Costa Rica. An active speaker, he serves as a Director of the South Central Membrane Association and is a member of the International Desalination Association and the Costa Rica Federation of Civil Engineers.

About PUB

PUB is a statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. It is the water agency that manages Singapore's water supply, water catchment and used water in an integrated way. PUB won the 2007 Stockholm Industry Water Award and was named Water Agency of the Year at the Global Water Awards 2006.

About IDA

The International Desalination Association (www.idadesal.org) is a non-profit association of over 2,000 members in fifty-eight countries. The membership is comprised of scientists, end-users, engineers, consultants and researchers from governments, corporations and academia. IDA is associated with the United Nations as part of a growing international network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).