

**KEYNOTE MESSAGE BY MS ISABELLA HUANG-LOH,
CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL
SWA-SEC MOU SIGNING CEREMONY
11 JANUARY 2022, 10AM AT PUB WATERHUB**

Ms Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment;

Mr Charles Quek, Vice President, General Affairs for Singapore Water Association;

Mr Kunal Shah, Chairman of Sustainability Task Force for Singapore Water Association;

Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour and privilege to be here representing the Singapore Environment Council to witness the Singapore Water Association - SEC collaborative MOU. Thank you PUB for putting us together last year. Today's occasion commemorates the first steps in advancing the sustainability agenda for Singapore's water sector. I congratulate the Singapore Water Association for boldly anchoring forward with SEC. Blue is now the new Green!

Leveraging SEC's appointment as a partner in Enterprise Singapore's Enterprise Sustainability Programme, SEC will assist SWA members enhance their individual capability and capacity building required to jumpstart innovations and sustainable development. The collaboration will provide a comprehensive suite of training and standards processes for SEC's validation and certification.

Over the past 26 years, SEC has actively enabled and validated more than 5000 local and regional companies in their sustainable transition through our eco-certifications and the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme. Our certifications are globally recognised in over 80 countries of which the SEC - International Accreditation Forum provides that strong stamp of eligibility and recognition.

I am pleased to announce that SEC has embarked on SGLS certifications for industrial water equipment which includes high-pressure waterjets, commercial washer extractors and dish washers.

As Singapore progresses towards becoming a zero-waste nation, carbon neutrality by our industries play a critical role in achieving this goal.

With multi ministry approaches to help SWA take advantage of the \$50 million SG Eco Fund to support the co-creation of solutions for a sustainable Singapore, Financial Institutions and other agencies are also facilitating green financing packages.

Water is the new Green! Singapore uses about 430 million gallons of water per day and we can see this demand double by 2060. Sustainable Water management will therefore be critical.

SEC had embarked on a study of Singapore 's packaging waste and the final data will be published by March. In that study, we saw an alarming increase in packaging growth of 3% globally and 11% for Singapore during the same period due to the circuit breaker. This spike in packaging waste is highly undesirable considering that 40 % of this packaging is plastics.

We often blame consumer water bottles for this adverse trend but our study shows a large growth trajectory in other plastic packaging for other consumer products such as detergents, shampoos and other industrial use. Global manufacturers are now rethinking the logistics of water content on these applications.

Some positive innovative developments that will disrupt the eco system in water logistics and management and bring about environmental benefits includes:

1. Product redesign in making products solidify (toothpaste tablets) and formula concentrates (detergent), that results in lower shipping costs. This is significant because the industrial transport comprises the largest segment end-use packaging applications, accounting for 41.6% of total packaging sales.

2. Reuse and refills for water and beverages. Global beverage giants like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo have started investing in new technologies to improve drink dispensers that will encourage customers to reuse their bottles.

Last but not least, I would like to thank again SWA and PUB for recognizing the potential of this collaboration between SEC and SWA. Taking a leaf from our packaging waste study, managing water optimisation for industrial purposes will lead to greater savings in our water supply as we strive towards ensuring Singapore's water resilience for future generations.

Thank you again for having me here and have an enjoyable morning.