

## **Aqualyng Highlights the Need of Innovation in Water Desalination to Meet the Rising Demand of Fresh Water in the Region**

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*Chip Harris Global Director for Desalination Operations at Aqualyng presented a key note on 'Innovation' at the 2009 Wastewater & Desalination Conference in Dubai*

Dubai - Aqualyng, the specialist in energy efficient desalination plants, today highlighted the importance of innovation and sustainability for the future growth and development in the water desalination industry during the 2009 Wastewater & Desalination conference held at Le Royal Meridian Beach Resort & Spa in Dubai.

Chip Harris, Global Director for Desalination Operations, Aqualyng who chaired the conference also presented a key note on how the water desalination industry had evolved over the last three decades and the implications of innovation in the desalination process on energy consumption, economic benefits and environment sustainability.

Speaking at the event, Chip with more than 30 years of global experience in the desalination industry said, "The Middle East has one of the highest consumptions of desalinated water anywhere in the world which is mainly attributed to the unavailability of natural resources of fresh water as well as a booming economy. It is estimated that desalination contributes more than 85% of the total water consumed for potable use in the UAE, which also has a current consumption level between 1.85 and 2.12 billion m<sup>3</sup>/day, one of the highest in the world."

Chip added, "This increasing demand for fresh water in the regional has led to new innovations in the process of desalinating water, which has changed drastically over the last three decades. If we have to compare the current efficiency levels with that of the 70's one can see an improvement which has resulted in a 70% percent reduction in energy consumption. This was mainly due to the new technologies for energy recovery in membrane technology which have greatly reduced operational cost."

As part of his presentation, Chip also focused on the improvements in energy recovery and the use of alternate energy resources in the desalination process which has helped bring down operational cost at various projects in the region. He also highlighted chemical issues with treatment forms, environmental sustainability for desalination in regards to carbon footprint and environmental impact and the future of desalination as a long-term water resource.

The 2009 Wastewater & Desalination conference will bring together key industry experts to discuss current challenges, innovative technical and practical solutions to the water industry across the Middle East, highlighting case studies on best practices and recent developments in the field of desalination and wastewater treatment.

[Zawya]