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SUEZ Strengthens Sludge Disposal and Recycling Capacity in China's Yangtze River Economic Belt

Today marks the 10th anniversary of SUEZ's sludge disposal and recycling project in the Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP). As a model of the circular economy, the SIP experience has successfully expanded to other projects in Yangzhou and Suzhou Xiangcheng District, Jiangsu Province. Such practices have successfully improved the sludge disposal capacities of cities along the Yangtze River Economic Belt and supported the protection of water resources in the Yangtze River basin.

The Yangtze River basin is home to one third of China's water bodies and cities. Cities around this area account for 50% of China's GDP. Along with rapid economic growth, the area has also seen a tremendous increase in waste streams generated by the growing population and industrial production. This continued growth has a heavy impact on an already fragile environment.

SIP project: A Model of Industrial Synergies and Recycling

SIP's economic output rose 6% year-on-year in 2020. This is a strong testament to China's ultra-resilient economy. As the provider of sludge disposal and recycling, as well as hazardous waste disposal services in the park, SUEZ commissioned a sludge disposal and recycling plant in 2011.

This facility has a current daily capacity to treat 600 tonnes of wet sludge generated from the park's wastewater treatment plant, converting the sludge to an inert substance, reducing its volume, stabilizing its properties and recycling it into valuable resources. The project has been running, uninterrupted, for 10 years.

More importantly, the sludge drying plant combines seamlessly with cogeneration and wastewater treatment plants and realizes strong industrial synergies. Using a recycling and zero-discharge model, the sludge is converted into resources, thereby effectively mitigating climate change. To date, the project has produced about 300,000 tonnes of dry sludge, equivalent to 110,000 tonnes of standard coal, from power plants. It has reduced CO₂ emissions from coal combustion by 280,000 tonnes, saved 756,000 cubic meters of demineralized water and freed up 100 hectares of land that otherwise would have been used as a sludge landfill. The project also leads the industry in terms of operational stability and energy efficiency. It consumes only 0.63 tonnes of waste heat steam per ton of wet sludge treated (40% less than other, similar processes).

The SIP project received the France-China Committee's Climate Change Solutions Innovation Award. It also has become a model of third-party environmental solutions in China and has been recognized as a Circular Economy Demonstration Project in Jiangsu Province.

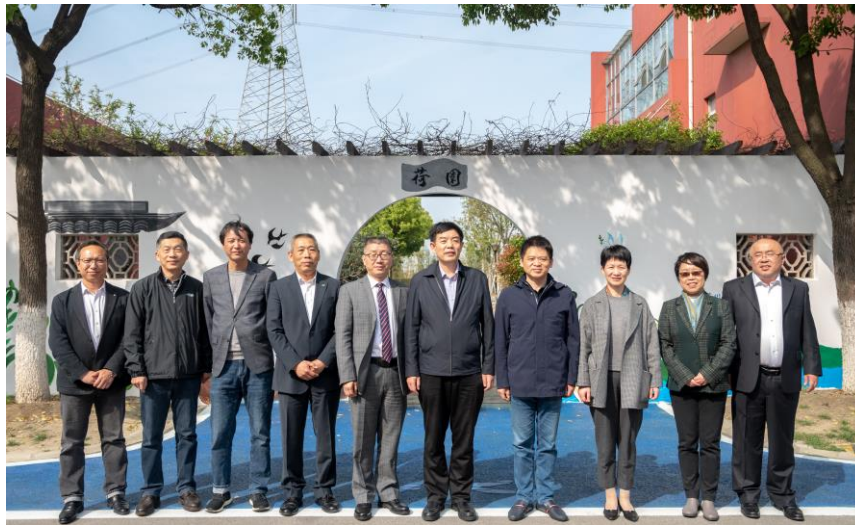
Expanding Yangzhou's Sludge Disposal Project to Improve City's Living Environment

SUEZ successfully replicated the SIP project in Yangzhou in 2016, and recently began construction on Phase II of the project¹. Upon completion of this phase, the plant will have an additional treatment capacity of 200 tonnes per day, to meet the fast-growing demand for sludge treatment and disposal. With the commission of Phase I and Phase II, the combined daily treatment capacity of the plant will reach 500 tonnes.

Felix Fan, Senior Vice President of SUEZ Asia, said, *"The Yangtze River Protection Law, China's first comprehensive watershed cleanup and regulation law, came into force in March. The protection of the Yangtze River is a society-wide effort that depends on the collaboration of multiple stakeholders, including governments and businesses, along the Yangtze River. As a founding member of the Yangtze River Ecological and Environmental Protection Alliance, SUEZ provides innovative solutions for water and waste management to nearly 60%² of cities along the Yangtze River. We look forward to working with more coastal cities to promote high quality growth along the Yangtze River Economic Belt."*

¹ Invested, built and operated by Yangzhou Sino French Environment Company, a SUEZ joint venture.

² The 11 cities (Chengdu, Chongqing, Wuhan, Nanchang, Nanjing, Yangzhou, Suzhou, Taizhou, Changzhou, Nantong, and Shanghai) make up 57.8% of the 19 provinces and cities in the Yangtze River basin.



On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of SUEZ's sludge disposal and recycling project in the Suzhou Industrial Park, leaders from the Park visited the plant.

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About SUEZ:

Since the end of the 19th century, SUEZ has built expertise aimed at helping people to constantly improve their quality of life by protecting their health and supporting economic growth. With an active presence on five continents, SUEZ and its 90,000 employees strive to preserve our environment's natural capital: water, soil, and air. SUEZ provides innovative and resilient solutions in water management, waste recovery, site remediation and air treatment, optimising municipalities' and industries' resource management through "smart" cities and improving their environmental and economic performance. The Group delivers sanitation services to 64 million people and produces 7.1 billion m³ of drinking water. SUEZ is also a contributor to economic growth, with more than 200,000 jobs created directly and indirectly on an annual basis, and a provider of new resources, with 4.2 million tonnes of secondary raw materials produced. By 2030, the Group is targeting 100% sustainable solutions, with a positive impact on our environment, health and climate. SUEZ generated total revenue of €17.2 billion in 2020.

About SUEZ Asia:

With a strong presence of 60+ years in South East Asia and 45+ years in Greater China, SUEZ is a preferred partner in helping authorities and industrial clients develop water and waste management solutions that enable cities and industries to optimize their resource management and strengthen their environment and economic performances. With 9,000+ employees and 70+ joint ventures with local partners, the Group has built 600+ water and wastewater plants, with 32+ million people benefiting from our water and waste services. Today, SUEZ is recognized as one of the most influential companies and a service benchmark in leading the region's environmental industry. We operate China's first PPP water contract in Macau, one of Asia's largest hazardous waste treatment facilities in Shanghai, as well as a plastic recycling plant in Thailand. It is also a leader in Hong Kong's waste management industry and delivers environmental services to 21 industrial parks.

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