



Introduction to ASEMWater

On 4 and 5 October 2010, the Eighth ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit (ASEM 8) was hosted by Belgium in Brussels. Chinese then Premier Wen Jiabao proposed to establish ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center (hereinafter referred to as “ASEMWater”) in Hunan Province, China, with a view to promoting sustainable development in Asia and Europe through S&T collaboration and capacity improvement in water resources management. The initiative was welcomed by ASEM members and recorded in the “Advance on the Path of Sustainable Development” section of the Chair’s Statement as one of the important deliverables of the Summit.

Based on the principles of equality, opening-up and mutual benefits, ASEMWater is officially founded in Changsha, Hunan Province of China in 2011 in the framework of ASEM. Being a regional organization specializing in science and technology cooperation and a public non-profit international organization, the ASEMWater expects to unite related governments, universities, institutions and high-tech enterprises. On one hand, ASEMWater is to strengthen regional collaborations and facilitate the establishment of a long-term partnership among Asia-Europe water resources research institutes; to develop research and innovative network and create synergies through joint research, technical exchange, technology transfer, diffusion and demonstration, personnel exchange and training, capacity building, sharing of share best practice and data, etc., in a bid to jointly address common concerns about water use and water environment governance. On the other hand, it is to submit policy recommendations and technical consultations to ASEM as well as Asian-European states and governments on sustainable water use and integrated management, strategic planning and action plans, and etc.

Introduction to Event Series of ASEM Water Seminar

ASEM Water Seminar (hereinafter referred to as the “Seminar”) is the continuation of event series of ASEMWater to deepen the sustainable management of water resources. It is held every two years, and the first three Seminars were held in Changsha, Hunan Province of China. In 2018, ASEMWater, in joint hands with Hungarian Water Association and other partners, successfully hosted the 3rd Seminar in Budapest, Hungary, and achieved desirable effects. Between 2020 and 2022, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEMWater remained committed to its mission, continuing to organize the Seminar through two successful online editions. These virtual meetings were well-received and appreciated by ASEM members, fostering continued dialogue and cooperation. In 2024, as the pandemic subsided, ASEMWater was able to hold the 6th Seminar in Changsha, Hunan Province, in a physical format, marking a return to in-person collaboration.

The Seminar has always been committed to serving the sustainable development of water resources and solving common problems of water resources for ASEM members. The aim of the Seminar is to establish an international multi-stakeholder forum and network on sustainable water management from a European and Asian perspective, providing opportunities to discuss the challenges and best practices, exchange experiences, and seek solutions. The event is aimed to examine how the governance, the R&D activities, the education and the cooperation-partnership can contribute to addressing these declared water challenges. The Seminar fosters dialogues among the governments, private sector, academia, and the civil societies from Europe and Asia in the field of integrated and sustainable water management. By putting emphasis on the implementation of innovation for sustainability in the real-world venues of cities, industry, and agriculture, the Seminar will share perspectives and encourage collaboration among the many stakeholders who play a role in how we use water— such as municipalities, industrial users, agriculture, policy-makers, regulators, environmental and social organizations,

equipment and technology suppliers, consultants, researchers and academicians, financial institutions, and underserved populations, and etc. A key goal of the Seminar will be to develop recommendations and action plans designed to support collaborative efforts among the stakeholders who play a role in the path from supporting.



ASEM Seminar on Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Context of Urbanization in 2014, Changsha of China



2nd ASEM Water Resources S&T Cooperation Seminar in 2016, Changsha of China



3rd ASEM Seminar on Urban Water Management in 2018, Budapest of Hungary



4th ASEM Seminar on Urban Water Management and Hunan (Chenzhou) International Expo on the Sustainable Utilization of Water Resources and Green Development in 2020, Chenzhou of China



5th ASEM Seminar on Urban Water Management in 2022, Changsha of China



6th ASEM Seminar on Urban Water Management in 2024, Changsha of China