



May 22, 2024

Invitation Letter to attend the 6th ASEM Seminar on Urban Water Management

Dear Sir/Madam,

Throughout history, humans have settled near water, and civilizations have thrived alongside it. Water is at the heart of recent milestone agreements such as the UN's *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the 2015 Paris Agreement. The World Economic Forum ranks the water crisis in the top 3 of global risks for the third consecutive year. In UN resolution 71/222, the General Assembly proclaims the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development" (the "Decade"), to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda. Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the idea of enriching and improving the Global Development Initiative, implementing the UN's *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and promoting synergy and efficiency among existing development cooperation mechanisms to foster balanced global development.

ASEM Seminar on Urban Water Management (hereinafter referred to as "the Seminar") is a flagship event under the ASEM framework. It aims to collaboratively enhance water resource management capabilities through scientific and technological cooperation and promote sustainable development in ASEM countries. Since 2014, the ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center (hereinafter referred to as "ASEMWater") has convened the Seminar biennially, with five successful editions held so far. Despite the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in late 2019, with your invaluable trust and

unwavering support, both the 4th and 5th Seminars were successfully held online, receiving widespread acclaim. Over the past decade, the Seminar has provided a high-level international forum for ASEM member countries, offering a platform for in-depth exchange, business cooperation, and exploration of cutting-edge solutions, serving as a bridge for international communication and collaboration. It also works to address common water resource challenges faced by ASEM members, such as sustainable water resource development and ecological environmental protection.

With the theme of “Promoting Sustainable Development of Water Resources for Shared Prosperity”, **the 6th ASEM Seminar on Urban Water Management is going to be convened as an offline event from October 22nd to 24th, 2024, in Changsha and Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province of China.** Working together within the Asia-Europe region to uphold the vision of building a better world, accelerate the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for SDGs* and contribute further to common and sustainable human development., we cordially invite you to attend this Seminar and make a presentation (optional). International travel expenses, local expenses, expert consultation fees, and etc. of the selected speaker shall be covered by the Seminar Organizing Committee.

- Attachment: 1. Concept Paper
2. Seminar Program
3. Administrative Circular
4. Brief Introductions
5. Registration Form

Sincerely,

ZHOU Bin (Mr.)

Executive Director



Secretariat of ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center