



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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U.S. State Department program participants gain insight from MWRD during visit to Chicago

High-ranking water resource officials from Mexico, Uzbekistan, Hong Kong and Finland learned about the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) state-of-the-art water reclamation systems and toured the MWRD's control center in the downtown Chicago office earlier this month.

Gloria Angelica Ayala, Mexico, Dr. Madina Khalmirzaeva, Republic of Uzbekistan, Vincent Shing Cheung, Hong Kong Water Supplies Department, and Jari Koskiahio, Finnish Environment Institute in Helsinki, were guests of WorldChicago and the U.S. Department of State. The group was in the country to learn about the issues and challenges of protecting drinking water resources (Lake Michigan) while protecting businesses and homes from flood damage. They were particularly interested in learning how the MWRD collects and treats wastewater and stormwater for five million people.

"What you do on a daily basis to protect your drinking water is really remarkable," said Ayala. "We are very interested in learning more so we can adapt some of your technologies back home." MWRD executive director David St. Pierre explained how the treatment system operates. He also discussed the growing role of green infrastructure to minimize the effects of stormwater by allowing it to be absorbed into the ground instead of flowing into the sewer system.

"The MWRD has evolved over 123 years, and we have a great propensity to adapt to change in our technique and processes," said St. Pierre. "That's what makes the MWRD so successful." The MWRD frequently receives requests for speakers and water reclamation plant tours from individuals and agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

To schedule a tour or speaker, call 312-751-6633 or visit www.mwrdd.org.



In the photo: David St. Pierre, MWRD Executive Director, explains to an international delegation how the MWRD protects the region's drinking water supply while reclaiming wastewater for five million people.

Our water environment...Take it personally

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.