Water Environment Federation

KOREA WATER PARTNERSHIP

AI-ENABLED CIRCULAR WATER ECONOMY SOUTH KOREA STUDY TOUR

AUGUST 23-28, 2026

EXPLORING SOUTH KOREA'S AI-ENABLED CIRCULAR WATER SOLUTIONS

This weeklong immersive experience will be led by Korea Water Partnership (KWP), a WEF's long-standing partner.

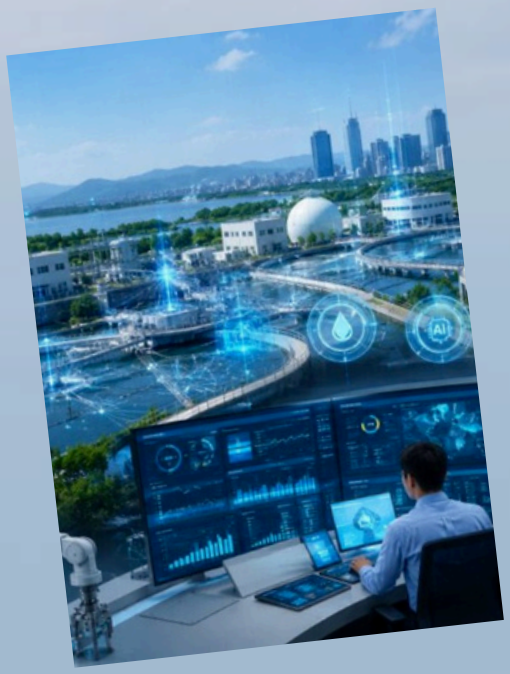
Study tour delegates will gain firsthand exposure to South Korea's practical applications of AI-enabled water management and circular water solutions while engaging with utilities, industry leaders, and public-sector organizations to exchange knowledge, explore innovative practices, and identify opportunities for long-term collaboration.

SCAN THE QR-CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT KOREA WATER PARTNERSHIP

JOURNEY AROUND SOUTH KOREA

STUDY TOUR PROGRAM

6-DAY ITINERARY



Day 1, August 23, Seoul

Arrive, check-in at your hotel

Evening Cultural Activities

Day 2, August 24, Daejeon & Hwaseong

07:30-10:00	Travel to K-water
10:00-12:30	K-water HQ visit
12:30-13:30	Luncheon with K-water
13:30-15:30	Travel to Hwaseong
15:30-17:00	Hwaseong AI-enabled water treatment plant tour
17:00-18:30	Return to Seoul
Evening	Cultural activities, sightseeing & dinner on own

Day 3, August 25, Sihwa Lake

08:30-10:00	Travel to Sihwa Lake
10:00-12:00	Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Station Tour
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Travel
15:00-16:30	Seonam Water Recycling Center Tour
16:30-18:30	Cultural activities, sightseeing
Evening	Networking Dinner (Professor Seungkwan Hong and Professor Sungpyo Kim)

Day 4, August 26, Daegu & Busan

08:30-12:00	Travel (Seoul → Dongdaegu)
12:00-13:30	Luncheon with Korea Water Cluster
13:30-16:30	Korea Water Cluster facility tour, roundtable and company visit
16:30-18:30	Travel to Busan
Evening	Dinner & Sightseeing

Day 5, August 27, Busan & Seoul

09:00-10:00	Travel to site
10:00-11:30	Busan Eco Delta Smart City visit
11:30-13:00	Lunch
13:00-18:00	Cultural activities, sightseeing
Evening	Dinner in Busan
Evening	Travel to Seoul

Day 6, August 28, Seoul

08:30-09:30	Travel
09:30-12:00	Samsung E&A Visit
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30-16:30	Water Solution Provider meeting and roundtable
16:30-18:00	Cultural activities, sightseeing, shopping
Evening	Farewell dinner

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Aim for:** laptop bag + 1 suitcase. That's the ideal setup for this trip.
- **Business casual dress code** is recommended.
- **Footwear:** comfortable, closed-toe walking shoes
- **Media-friendly clothing:** we will be taking photos/videos. Avoid anything you would not want in a WEF/KWP social posts.
- **Late August conditions** in Korea can generally be considered similar to summer weather in Washington, D.C., although Korea may feel somewhat more humid.
- **Sun protection:** sunglasses, sunscreen and a good cap are strongly recommended.
- **Alcoholic beverages**, if provided as part of a group lunch or dinner, shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) standard alcoholic drinks per participant per day.
- Any **personal expenses or incidentals** charged to your hotel room (e.g., room service, minibar, laundry, or other personal purchases) are the sole responsibility of the participant and must be settled directly with the hotel at check-out.

KWP AND WEF STAFF

Woojae (Jason) Lee

Leads international cooperation and overseas business development at the Korea Water Partnership (KWP), advancing global partnerships and market opportunities for Korea's water industry. He previously spent nearly a decade in the construction and infrastructure sector, working on water supply, industrial water, and developing an advanced wastewater treatment process.

Heejin Kim

Supports international cooperation and overseas business development at the Korea Water Partnership (KWP), helping connect Korea's water industry with global markets. Heejin coordinates participation in international water exhibitions, study tours, conferences, and business matching programs, while supporting partnerships with global water-sector organizations.

Andrea Hall

Globally minded HR executive and transformational leader, currently serving as Global Strategic HR Director at Thermo Fisher Scientific. In this role, Andrea drives the integration of human capital strategies with core business objectives, while championing inclusive, empowered workplace cultures across global teams. As a WEF Board of Trustees member, she brings a strong commitment to resilient, future-focused leadership in the water sector.

Wendi Wilkes

Directs strategic initiatives at the Water Environment Federation, including work on the Water-AI Nexus, Circular Water Economy, and cross-sector collaboration on the future of water infrastructure. Wendi previously served as Director of Infrastructure Implementation in the U.S. EPA's Office of Water and has held water policy and leadership roles across the nonprofit, public, and private sectors.

Anna Abraham

Advances Circular Water Economy initiative at the Water Environment Federation, fostering innovation, cross-sector collaboration, and global partnerships. She previously led a consulting project in Costa Rica focused on watershed justice and completed an EPA fellowship supporting water affordability and environmental justice initiatives.

MEET THE DELEGATION

Bipin Pathak

Process Engineer with Prince William Water. His expertise includes process innovation in biological nutrient removal process, anaerobic digestion, thermal hydrolysis, sludge and incineration. He is member of WEF and IWA. Dr. Pathak is a co-author of few dozen of scientific peer-reviewed papers. He also operated in the world largest advanced wastewater treatment plant.

Gabbie LaFayette

Industrial Investigator at WSSC Water with a passion for water quality, resilience, and the future of the water sector. Her work spans industrial pretreatment, PFAS source identification, wastewater compliance, and data-driven approaches to protecting water resources. She is interested in how collaboration and circular approaches can help utilities turn today's water challenges into opportunities for a more resilient future.

Maria Claudia Rubio Galvez

Engineer at AlexRenew, a wastewater resource recovery utility, with more than 10 years of experience in the water and wastewater sector. In her current role, Maria Claudia supports capital projects and organizational initiatives related to sustainability, resilience, and risk management. As an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP), she focuses on integrating sustainability and circular economy principles into infrastructure planning.

Lou Storino

Managing Civil Engineer at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago with over 28 years experience in the water sector. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois, a Board Certified Environmental Engineer and a WEF Fellow.

ValaRae Partee

Deputy Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Albuquerque Area Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) Program, leading water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure projects for 24 Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations across four states. Her work includes documenting sanitation deficiencies for Congress, securing federal funding, project delivery, and support for Tribal utilities and critical infrastructure.