



AZERBAIJAN WATER MISSION: 23-25 JULY 2024

Business to Government: Water decarbonisation, desalination & pollution filtration

Azerbaijan faces significant challenges with its water resources, with a total water footprint exceeding internal resources by a considerable margin. Agriculture, industry, and households are major users, with agriculture being particularly stressed due to water scarcity. Investments in agricultural productivity are crucial for economic diversification. Climate change exacerbates these issues, decreasing rainfall and increasing extreme weather events. Much of Azerbaijan's water comes from external sources, making it vulnerable to fluctuations. Infrastructure for irrigation, largely built during the Soviet era, is in need of maintenance. Water management is fragmented, but steps have been taken to improve coordination, notably the establishment of a Water Commission in 2020 and the creation of a State Agency of Water Resources in 2023. International collaboration, notably with Dutch companies, has been beneficial in managing water resources sustainably. Despite challenges, there are opportunities for improvement through cooperation in assessing water availability, quality, and demand.

In realizing the 2018-2035 water strategy, the government of Azerbaijan has launched and is about to issue new large scale water projects to decarbonize and desalinate water, pollution filtration, land winning, water irrigation, water/coast protection.

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The implementation of the 2018-2035 water strategy is done by the execution of multiple large scale projects across the country and water domains such as the [Water Treatment Project](#) to improve irrigation systems initiated by the State Water Commission in April 2020. Another, more recent example, is the [Seawater Desalination Project](#) focused on the production of drinking water issued by the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan in February 2024. In the upcoming months and years, according to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev, many [new initiatives](#) will be launched.



The [wastewater treatment plants modernization](#) is also in the government's agenda. The president already signed 2 decrees and allocated 60 million USD for the modernisation of two main waste water treatment plants in Baku and Sumgayit city.

Therefore, and as follow up on the Baku Water Week, a trade mission, led by **water envoy Meike van Ginneken**, will take place to learn about existing and new government projects, who to connect with and how to take part in the tender and help implementing the Azerbaijan water strategy 2018-2035.



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CONCEPT PROGRAM: 23-25 JULY

23rd of July - Day 1: Out in the field day

Field visit to e.g. Jeyranbatan water ultra filtration plant and SOCAR waste management plan, followed by a closing network reception at Ambassador residence of The Netherlands in Azerbaijan.

24th of July - Day 2: Meeting the Government

A day full of Business to Government meetings, teaming up with prime stakeholders of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and the State Water Resources Agency.

25th of July - Day 3: Water Innovation Forum

The main purpose of the forum is to familiarize public, private, international organizations and research institutions related to water with innovations and innovative solutions, to ensure the exchange of experience, to support local professionals and entrepreneurs through a platform of training and cooperation. The forum brings together experience, demonstration of new technologies, state and private sector innovations in the management of water resources in the region, waste water management, recycling, relation to the environment, determining the effects on the ecological system.

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HOW TO JOIN

Question or sign up?
Please email or contact mission lead Ms. Ulienke Bruinsma.

E: ulienke@exportpartner.com
T: +31(0)651 671 553

Deadline sign up: 14th of June 2024

PARTICIPATION FEE

This mission has a participation fee of € 2.250 excluding travel and stay expenses. A RVO SIB voucher can be applied for reimbursing 50% (€ 1.125,-) of the participation fee of this mission.

Hotels and flights will be recommended to make (tentative) use of.

This program is coordinated by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Azerbaijan, Aqualink Azerbaijan and Export Partner, The Netherlands and led by **water envoy Meike van Ginneken** opening governmental doors and unlocking business.



Kingdom of the Netherlands

