

Drinking water for the whole population

Georg Fischer: a reliable partner to Manila Water

Schaffhausen, 15 May 2008

A successful public-private partnership is bringing the Philippine capital's public water distribution network up to date. Over five million people are now connected to the public supply network run by Manila Water, while a socially responsible system of subsidies is making this precious resource affordable for all.

In 2007, the Philippines saw a remarkable economic up-swing with growth reaching 7.3%. That's the highest growth rate for three decades. However, according to official statistics, more and more of its people are living in poverty, with a rising number of Filipinos having no access to clean drinking water. This is especially true of the country's capital, Manila. In order to remedy this situation, in 1997 the dilapidated water distribution network in the eastern part of Manila was handed over to a public-private partnership, with the World Bank as one of the participants. Since then the company concerned, Manila Water, has implemented an ambitious redevelopment and expansion programme which is being met with universal recognition and has become something of a showcase project. Georg Fischer is one of the project's key suppliers. Around 60% of the fittings being deployed are being provided by GF Piping Systems; with regard to welding machines, this share rises to a massive 95%. Linda Q. Nacino, manager of the company's Representative Office in Manila, is delighted with this prominent role: "GF has been active in the Philippines since the 1960s. But never before have we been awarded such a significant contract – it's a real incentive for us."

Staggering success story

So far, around 2,000 kilometres of new pipeline have been laid and connected to the mains. Of this figure, 600 kilometres were laid in 2007 alone! Since 1997, daily water consumption has increased from 440,000 to 1,000,000 litres. While the city had to contend with water losses of 63% in 1997, today this figure has dropped to 25%, one of the best results within the Asian region. This remarkable efficiency gain is linked not least to the fact that the company has now been able to connect the city's eastern districts and adjoining suburbs, where average incomes are low, to the water distribution network. In other words, many of these areas have in the past been forced to seek illegal access to this precious resource or to buy it from another source, often in dubious quality and at a high price. Now, over five million people in Manila Water's area of operations have access to



the public water supply, and almost 100% of households have running water 24 hours a day. Just seven years ago, only a quarter of households could say as much!

"Water for the community"

This success story was made possible by the ambitious "Water for the community" programme, which so far has benefited over a million people in lower income brackets. This programme has also provided access to excellent quality drinking water to those Filipinos who cannot actually afford it at all by charging the more affluent users of the water supply proportionally more for their consumption. Happily, this socially responsible cross-subsidization system is working well and has been accepted at grass roots level. This is reflected by the fact that 20% of the system's more affluent users provide 50% of Manila Water's total water utility income.

The bottom line

Exemplary services from Georg Fischer

“Manila Water is extending the public water supply to include people on lower incomes and is thus improving their daily lives and their quality of life in general. Georg Fischer is a reliable partner in this endeavour; its performance and efficiency are an example to all our suppliers.”

Geodino V. Carpio, Manila Water management

Manila Water

A showcase project

Exemplary redevelopment “We don’t just lay pipes, we improve lives”, proclaims the slogan of Manila Water. This showcase project, a joint public-private venture, was initiated in 1997, since when the drinking and waste water network in the eastern part of Philippine capital Manila has been redeveloped and expanded one step at a time. The above slogan is a reflection of the formerly desolate state of the drinking and waste water network of this city, which is home to 12 million people.

«Preferred supplier» status for GF GF Piping Systems has been named a «preferred supplier» by Manila Water. The company has supplied no less than 30 containers of ELGEF fittings, service saddles and branch saddles for the redevelopment project. The delivery programme also included 130 welding machines, of both the butt fusion and electrofusion varieties. The «preferred supplier» distinction is all the more noteworthy given the constant and tough international competition GF faces in this area. In spring 2008, GF was able to open a modern Service Center in Manila.

International expansion plans Manila Water has some ambitious expansion plans. The company intends to provide further regions of the Philippines, a group of islands in the Malay Archipelago, with a safe and efficient water supply. Moreover, it also has plans to apply the expertise it has acquired outside of the Philippines. It is currently looking into ventures in Vietnam, China, India and Indonesia.

Georg Fischer Piping Systems

One-stop solutions

International leader ... GF Piping Systems develops and manufactures pipes, fittings, mountings, flow meters and welding machines. Its practical system solutions provide safe and reliable transportation networks, whether for water and gas supply systems or building technology and plumbing applications. Its uniquely diverse offering makes GF Piping Systems one of the leading international suppliers of piping systems.

... with global presence... The firm’s sales companies and distribution partners guarantee optimal support all around the world. Active customer support services include on-site planning support, rapid product availability and training programmes which are held all over the world.

...and certified quality A rigorous quality management framework assures high and consistent product quality, as attested by the company’s ISO 9001 certified quality management system and its ISO 14001 certified environmental management system. All components and systems comply with the current standards in force in the different markets and are tested in an in-house, accredited test laboratory.

«Adding Quality to People’s Lives»

Essential to good health

Georg Fischer rises to the challenge Clean, hygienic drinking water is one of the most important prerequisites for good health. It is also one of the biggest global challenges of the 21st century. With its high-quality piping systems, GF is doing its part towards finding solutions.