

Growing Global Seawater Desalination Market:

Public and Private Sectors Join Forces to Seize Leadership

- Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment to hold a “Roundtable on Development Strategies for Seawater Desalination” on December 4
- Leaders from construction, manufacturing, and industry, academia and research in the desalination sector gather in one place

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE, Minister Kim Sungwhan) announced that it will hold a “Roundtable on Development Strategies for Seawater Desalination” on December 4 at the Bizhub Seoul Center in Jung-gu, Seoul, to assess the current state of Korea’s seawater desalination industry and discuss future development directions.

The global seawater desalination market is projected* to expand from KRW 35 trillion in 2023 to KRW 73 trillion by 2032, growing at an average annual rate of 8.6%. This roundtable was organized to establish development strategies that will enable Korea’s seawater desalination industry to secure a leading position in the global market, which is rapidly expanding due to the worsening worldwide water shortage caused by the climate crisis.

* Fortune Business Insights, Global Desalination Technologies Market report (2024)

About 20 participants will attend the roundtable, including representatives from the MCEE, Korea Water Resources Corporation, Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute, Korea Water Partnership, as well as companies involved

in seawater desalination and experts from research institutions and academia.*

* Samsung C&T, Hyundai Engineering & Construction, Doosan Enerbility, GS E&C, Tech cross, Synopex, Hyorim E&I, CJK, DH Water, Korea Institute of Science and Technology, Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology, Kookmin University

At the event, the MCEE will present a draft development strategy for seawater desalination and a new national R&D plan, centered on: utilizing concentrated brine for resource recovery and carbon reduction; integrating renewable energy and improving energy efficiency; developing plants that can be rapidly transported and redeployed; and domesticating core materials, components, and equipment.

In the following discussion session, experts and companies will share their views on the proposed development strategy and R&D plan, and companies will relay the challenges they experience in the processes of R&D, demonstration, commercialization, and overseas expansion. Based on these insights, the discussion will address what concrete support the government should provide to revitalize the industry.

Kim Hyo-jeong, Director General for Water Use Policy Bureau at the MCEE, stated, “Securing a technological edge and strengthening competitiveness of Korean companies is essential for taking the lead in the rapidly growing global seawater desalination market driven by the climate crisis.” She added, “Based on the voices from the field discussed at this roundtable, we will devise practical development strategies that industry can genuinely feel.”