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Water Environment Federation Collaborates with Nike and ZDHC to Create Multilingual Wastewater Training for Textile Industry

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – A new wastewater operations training program aims to improve water and wastewater management and treatment throughout the textile supply chains around the world.

The program is a collaboration between the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme and Nike.

The ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme Wastewater Guidelines standardize wastewater testing requirements in the global apparel, textile, and footwear supply chains. Suppliers share their wastewater testing results simultaneously with clients through the ZDHC Gateway - Wastewater Module. An analysis of the test reports identified an opportunity to improve wastewater operations and wastewater quality by offering increased and improved operator training.

The ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme will facilitate global training for wastewater operators throughout footwear and apparel industry supply chains. The organizations are collaborating to evolve the WEF training manual, trainer's kit, and exams to support ongoing training of wastewater operators. WEF will also begin translating its training materials into Mandarin and Vietnamese, in addition to Spanish. Nike, who helped develop the curriculum and supported the translations, will use the materials as part of ongoing water conservation efforts in its supply chain.

"There are tremendous opportunities to improve water quality and quantity by enhancing industrial wastewater management programs such as those in the global textile industry," said WEF President Jackie Jarrell. "WEF is excited to collaborate with ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme and Nike, and about the potential for impact in communities in Asia and Latin America."

"Improved wastewater treatment and 90 percent freshwater reduction in the textile industry are limited only by commitment and capability," said John Rydzewski, Director of Water Programs at Nike, Inc. "This collaboration is a fantastic opportunity to develop the necessary capabilities and reach a broader audience."

"We believe that the education and training resources provided by WEF are very much needed to support the implementation of the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme Wastewater Guidelines in textile, leather and apparel value chain and look forward to working together with WEF to strengthen our collaboration" said Scott Echols the Programme Director.

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About WEF

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 35,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.

About The Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) Foundation

The ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme (ZDHC) is a collaboration of brands, value chain affiliates and associates committed to eliminating hazardous chemicals from the textile, apparel and footwear value chain by implementing sustainable chemistry, driving innovation and commitment to best practices in the fashion industry to protect consumers, workers and the environment. For almost a decade, ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme has created solutions that support safer chemical management throughout the value chain. These include the ZDHC Gateway - Chemical and Wastewater Modules, the ZDHC Academy, the ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSL), and the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines. Visit <https://www.roadmaptozero.com/>