



EXCITING WATER AND PIPES

By Marina Kuzmenko





It has been unusually noisy and lively at the hall No. 6 during ECWATECH 2014 and CityPipe 2014 International exhibition at Crocus-Expo, the place for industry professionals on the 4th and 5th of June 2014. POLYPLASTIC group together with Mosvodokanal OJSC and Nestle Water-Coolers Service have organised a “Water education for children” Programme at the exhibition for the first time in Russia. The idea came from the pavilion organised at Wasser Berlin exhibition in order to attract young people into the industry.

It is very important to tell children about ecology and environment protection from an early age, to teach them the importance of these issues to humankind. Pure water and the protection of water resources are becoming very crucial today.

The aim of the event was to tell the young audience about the complicated chain of water treatment and supply of clean potable water to the users, widen their horizons and explain the importance of caring attitude towards water.

It was the second event of such kind for POLYPLASTIC Group. The first event, Pipe Conference for Children organised for the children of the Group’s employees, took place at the Business Centre of the Group and at the AND Gaztrubplast Plant in 2013. It was very successful. The Conference showed that children are interested in what their parents do, they like to visit the company and feel a little more grown-up. The initiative was supported by Nestle WaterCoolers Service and Mosvodokanal OJSC and offered to include topics like water saving, water purification, treatment and supply to the consumer. These issues are very important and complex, and the programme was built to make the little ones stay focused and not lose interest.

The space was provided by ECWATECH.

All the preparation works are done, balloons are inflated, equipment is ready, and the first group of participants arrived to the exhibition. The stand in the children’s zone attracted a lot of interest from the visitors and the loud gangs of children passing from pavilion to pavilion brought a lot of smiles.

Over 100 children visited the exhibition within 2 days. The first group consisted of children whose parents work at POLY-



PLASTIC Group, Mosvodokanal and Water supply companies of the Moscow region. Groups of 25 children were formed beforehand by the age ranged from 6 to 17. Each programme was adjusted live to make sure everybody was involved. The groups were joined by the children who came to the exhibition with their parents – this was a surprise for them and their parents, who found free childcare for 2–3 hours and could work effectively at the exhibition.

The programme included educational and practical lessons and games. The programme started with a little lecture on the Nestle WaterCoolers Service, where volunteers told about the benefit of water for people, water content in different products, water resources and supply ratio on the planet, need for ecological balance. The practical information will be of great use for the kids in education and in life.

After that the groups moved to Mosvodokanal stand, where Professor Cleverchap was showing different physical experiments in his “secret laboratory” and invited kids to participate. Each participant received a laboratory technician title, worked with chemical agents, made souvenirs by themselves and received a reward for participating.

The last stage of the educational event were lectures and practical lessons for connection and welding of the plastic pipes prepared by POLYPLASTIC Group. In the small presentation, made especially for the kids, they told about the history of

pipelines in the world, pipes evolution and their types, they explained how water is transported to the houses, demonstrated pipelines routing and briefly told about the materials for production of pipes and their properties.

The introduction presentation was very important to prepare the kids for a practical part, which had three stages: electro-fusion welding, compression connector, assembly/ dismantling of the valve in the manhole.

All works were done with interest, enthusiasm and wit. There weren't problems with things that grow-ups would consider difficult for kids. The task to build letters and digits and make "2014" and "Water" out of pipes and compression fittings took less time than the others. Welding equipment took longer because they needed to follow all instruction. "The welders" left their signatures upon the completion of welding as was stated in the instructions.

Two-meters high plastic manhole was very popular: all participants went inside, went upstairs, assembled and dismantled the valve inside it.

Children who completed their task early played the game called "catch clean water drops" set at the children's zone by Mosvodokanal.

After completing 3 stages the groups checked the integrity of the welded joints and took a group picture. 30 children from Nahabino Grammar School prepared a surprise: not only they participated in the programme but also showed their talents – they sang songs, danced, read poems dedicated to water saving and environment protection.

At the end of the event every participant received a certificate for "Taking the course for young specialists in plastic pipelines" from POLYPLASTIC Group, a certificate from the organisers of Children's zone and gifts.

Young participants left the event full of excitement and joy. The event turned out to be very warm, kind and informative and marked the beginning of summer holidays. Children said they have had an amazing day and that they would love to come again next year.

As for adults, the event reminded them who they do their work for.

