



## **AWWAIndia Conference & Exhibition (AICE), 2017**

With 'Total Water Solutions' as a theme and with 'Uniting the Indian Water Industry' as the objective, the American Water Works Association, India organized its first international annual conference 'AICE'17' in India on 10-11th November 2017 in Mumbai - a first for AWWA outside of USA.

AICE'17 was successful in creating a platform for collaboration between policy makers, utilities, practicing engineers and academicians in order to find innovative solutions for the challenges facing the water industry.

The conference was attended by over 200 delegates well represented by both Government and industry. David LaFrance –CEO, AWWA interacted with leaders from Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA), Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation at the inaugural panel discussion on "Present Challenges and ensuring sustainable water futures."

Another first for a water conference in India was the Utility Council Meet – a forum for a curated attendees of 15 engineering Heads of Public and Private Utilities to talk about their problem statements (Non-Revenue Water, Water & WW Management, etc.) and cross-pollinate solutions through technology adoption in an unconference format. One of the participants Mr Bambale, Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai (MCGM) said "AWWA should continue this initiative to bring utilities from across India more often to engage and solve our problems together." All participants supported this initiative and pledged their ongoing support to AWWA, India.

Another very unique and important feature of this conference was the 'Women's Networking Forum' with participation from over 20 women professionals serving the water and waste water industry. This forum is a positive beginning to recognize and further the inclusion of women in the water sector that has, hitherto, been a career choice for men alone. AWWA would like to use this forum to encourage more women in India to consider water as a career option.

The conference had over 24 presentations classified under various sessions such as Utility Management, Smart Water, Alternate Water Supply, and Waste Water Treatment. Presentations touched upon the most pressing challenges faced by India including Non-Revenue Water, ensuring clean and safe drinking water, policy and regulations for the water etc. Various innovative technologies were presented to help solve some of these challenges.

Arunabha Bhaduri, General Manager, Rockwell Automation said "Unlike many other such programmers over here there was a welcome mix of topics of interest concerning how technology could be used to harness some of the challenges being faced by WWW industry in India today. Many programs and seminars highlight the problems but not the solution!! For example the session on NRW and Water audit would have been immensely useful for some of us focused on water conservation"



To view all images click [here](#)