New MOU Partnership, Governmental Policies Panel Top AICE’19 Events

AWWAIndia held its third international Annual Conference and Exposition, AICE’19, in Mumbai, 13–14 Dec. 2019, with the goal of bringing together policymakers, utilities, practicing engineers, and academics to find innovative solutions for the Indian water industry’s challenges. In all, there were 252 delegates, 18 hours of thought leadership and content dissemination, 35 speakers, and seven technical sessions as well as a Utility Council Meet and the third gathering of the Women’s Networking Forum. AICE’19 highlights included an inaugural panel (Governmental Policies on Water and Wastewater: Past, Present and Future) and the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between AWWAIndia and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB).

MPCB plans a comprehensive program to prevent, control, or abate pollution through various environmental regulations in Maharashtra state. MPCB joined AWWAIndia as an Environment Partner at AICE’19 with a five-year commitment to explore opportunities in technology, innovation, and best practices related to safeguarding water and public health, controlling pollution, and reducing adverse environmental impacts. Opportunities will take place through participation in events such as workshops, training, conferences, and symposia, along with ongoing engagement between the organizations.

The Utility Council Meet was organized and attended by 30 engineers and heads of public and private utilities. Participants discussed utility concerns such as nonrevenue water, water and wastewater management, and other challenges. Successful case studies and implementation strategies for effective utility management were discussed to highlight best practices to follow and technical solutions to address the challenges the utilities face. Various advanced technologies were presented at the event to help solve some of the challenges faced by the water industry.

The conference had more than 26 presentations classified under various sessions such as Water Sector Policy and Regulations—A Canvas of Opportunities and Challenges, Water Reforms in India—The Way Ahead, Water Pollution Control—Current Scenario and Regulatory Interventions, and Groundwater Resources of Maharashtra and its Regulation. The third Women’s Networking Forum was organized on the sidelines of AICE’19. The women water professionals who participated in the forum exchanged ideas related to making the water sector more inclusive and diverse. Most AICE’19 attendees said the conference’s technical content was excellent and covered a diverse set of topics on water and wastewater management.