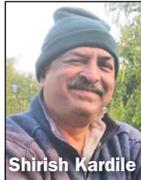


From the Board

AICE'17 to Promote India's Sustainable Water Future



Shirish Kardile

According to recent reports, India ranks among the world's worst countries for providing safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation to its citizens. Waterborne diseases and related ailments are rampant, particularly among children and women. Moreover, the national loss of productive work hours is enormous. As a result, India's economy has suffered greatly, and lifestyles have degraded across the social spectrum.

Source water protection is nonexistent in our country. Rivers and lakes are continuously being polluted. Indeed, a Bangalore lake catches fire regularly. To make water from these sources potable requires new technologies and innovative resource management techniques. Prioritizing affordable water and sewage schemes is often neglected as government agencies pour funds into capital expenditures yet rely on local bodies for sustainability. It's high time that India creates a central regulatory authority, like the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), to establish and enforce water and wastewater treatment guidelines for various agencies.

Recent droughts and floods in India and the United States have underlined that global warming is a universal

phenomenon. The availability and dependability of quality raw water sources are diminishing because of natural and man-made causes. Equitable water distribution must be a national priority. Similarly, effective sanitation is a corollary of water availability. Although there's an ownership aspect to industrial water processes, and therefore some degree of accountability, industrial effluent treatment is a great concern.

The time has come to think holistically about all these water-related concerns. Surface water, groundwater, seawater, irrigation water, wastewater, stormwater, recycled water, industrial process water, and effluents are all interrelated. AWWA has come up with a practical term for this concept: *total water solutions*. It's vital that water professionals promote best practices and use all water sources rationally and judiciously, and thereby achieve AWWA's primary mission to create a "better world through better water."

There's no better place to deliberate these concerns in India than at the first AWWAIndia Conference and Exposition (AICE'17), to be held in Mumbai, Nov. 10–11. The event, which is expected to be attended by nearly 300 delegates, includes six technical sessions and more than 30 quality presentations from experts who are eminent in their fields (see pages 1–3 for the

AICE'17 program). On the sidelines, an AWWAIndia Utility Council Meeting will convene to focus on municipal issues. The event includes an important panel discussion, "Policy/Regulations: Challenges, Way Forward."

In the inaugural session, AWWAIndia will present two Lifetime Achievement Awards to selected water professionals who are passionate about and committed to safe drinking water. The rest of the conference will be devoted to discussing India's serious water challenges. For example, should India start deliberating on regulatory models like USEPA's Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act? This is just one of many questions to be considered.

The event also promises to be a great opportunity to network with like-minded people. Along with water topic discussions, opportunities will be available for attendees to enjoy Mumbai and the event's beautiful setting, the Lalit hotel.

Most important, though, it's hoped the conference instills a sense of optimism among the attendees, reinforcing their right to dream (and ensure) potable tap water and swimmable rivers throughout India. There's no other option if India is to ensure its citizens a sustainable future and be worthy of the world's respect.

—Shirish Kardile,

AWWAIndia Strategic Board Chair



Water professionals increasingly must understand and manage water in all its stages, including (from left to right) potable water, wastewater, and stormwater.

