

ACE¹⁶

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION
JUNE 19 - 22, 2016 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**UNITING THE
WORLD OF WATER**



The Indian delegation at ACE 16, Chicago

The AWWA Annual Conference – ACE 16, was held in Chicago from 20th – 22nd June, 2016. It was a resounding success for AWWAIndia too. The Indian delegation that comprised of more than forty delegates, was the largest ever till date.

On the pre-conference day, 19th June, Indian delegates were also invited to join the AWWA Board of Directors luncheon. Dr. Hemant Landge (President, IWWA), Dr. Mrs. Malini Shankar (IAS Officer, Govt. of State of Maharashtra, India) and Shirish Kardile (Chairman, AWWAIndia) spoke on the occasion. The speakers presented various aspects of India's current drinking water scenario and stressed on the improvement of engineering and management aspects in the water industry.

The Opening General Session (OGS) was attended by all Indian delegates who appreciated the grand ceremony jointly attended by more than two thousand delegates. After the OGS, many Indian delegates proudly pinned the Indian Flag on the World Map at International Resource Centre (IRC). Later in the day at the International Council meeting, Mr. Raghunathan, Mr. Satyanarayana and Mr. Mahagaonkar spoke on different topics ranging from operator training to co-operation between AWWA & IWWA in the Indian Municipal sector. The International reception was also attended by many Indian delegates, where they had the chance to interact with delegates from Japan, Korea, Europe, South America and other countries.



Indian Delegation at the International Reception at ACE 16

The 'IWWA Technical Session' was well attended by more than fifty delegates. The session was conducted on 21st June where Dr. Mrs. Shankar, Mr. R. G. Deo, Mr. Chary, Mr. Wadhavne, Dr. Gupta and Ms. Bhatnagar presented their well-researched papers. All the technical tours were very educative.

On 22nd June, the board members of AWWAIndia, Executive Manager and officials of AWWA had a coordination meeting on how to give further boost to AWWAIndia operations. The meeting was attended by Mr. LaFrance, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Donahue, Mr. Kothari, and Ms. Paula from AWWA's global team.

The gavel passing and wrap party was attended by Indian delegates too. The Indian delegation presented parting gifts to the immediate Past President Gene Koontz and welcomed the new President Jeanne Bennet Bailey and invited her to visit India in early 2017. Mr. Mahagaokar extended the invitation to Ms. Jeanne and other dignitaries to attend the Annual Convention of Indian Water Works Association (IWWA) at Nagpur in January 2017 in India.

Indian delegates connected with like-minded professionals at the Expo and had evocative dialogues with the exhibitors. Many were fascinated by the display of concentration, skills and energy of participants at the 'tapping' contest. International Manager, John Anderson was at hand all the time to guide the delegates.

In all it was an exhilarating experience. One of the delegates aptly surmised "I wonder how they manage to put such gigantic and exciting show year after year with clockwise precision!"



*Shirish Kardile (Chairman, AWWAIndia) speaking at the IWWA Technical Session,
with Gene Koontz, immediate Past President, AWWA*



Amita Bhatnagar, Chair – Training Committee, AWWAIndia, speaking at the IWWA Technical Session



Q&A session at the IWWA Technical Session at ACE16