



By Clare Pierson

San Diego Hosts ACE09

Whether you're a water plant utility manager, public works officer, consulting engineer, manufacturer or researcher, you will learn a lot at the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE). The conference, taking place from June 14 to 18 at the San Diego Convention Center, never fails to provide a first-class professional program and hundreds of exhibitors that offer solutions and new technology to attendees.

Professional Program

The ACE09 professional program will include all the relevant topics to today's industry, and the speakers will present timely solutions and information.

Key topics this year include small systems, legislation and regulation, distribution and plant operations, engineering and construction, water reuse, water quality and water conservation.

New for 2009 are two certificate programs, Public Officials and High-Tech Operator. The new Public Officials program includes three courses on the basics of water treatment and distribution, governance and finance/asset management to prepare utility management and government officials with the knowledge and skills of water operations oversight. All three courses will be offered at ACE09.

The High-Tech Operator program is also new, and it is designed to provide operators and others with an understanding of the cutting-edge technology used in the water industry. Only Course 1 of this program will be offered at ACE09.

Exposition

Complementing the professional program is the exposition, which will feature more than 500 exhibiting companies showcasing everything from valves, pumps, tanks, security equipment, membranes, wastewater, hydrants and much more. This is a good chance for attendees to buy/specify products, create vendor lists, test drive new products, speak to company reps face to face, compare suppliers or just sit back and observe.

Exposition hours are as follows:

- Sunday, June 14, from 3 to 6 p.m.;
- Monday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- Tuesday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and
- Wednesday, June 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Special Events

ACE provides special events every year that make the show interesting and informative. These include:

- **Attendee Reception.** Taking place on Sunday, June 14, from 4 to 6 p.m., this is a great way to greet old friends and meet new ones. Complimentary drink tickets are provided with registration.
- **First-time Attendee Program.** Learn from AWWA staff how to use the show planner, meet other newcomers and get all the pertinent information necessary to navigate the show floor successfully.
- **Keynote Speaker.** ACE09's speaker is Dr. Peter H. Gleick, co-founder and president of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security in Oakland, Calif.
- **"Best of the Best" Water Taste Test.** Find out who has the best-tasting water in North America.
- **Career Fair.** Job hunters, young professionals and students can come together, network and discuss hiring opportunities with prospective employers.
- **Facility Tours.** Hurry up and register for these popular tours, which include: a water conservation garden, the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant, the Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant, an emergency storage project and Sea World San Diego.

Water Down Under

New to this year's show will be the Australian Pavilion, a dedicated area of the show floor where 18 Australian companies will showcase their products and solutions. Considering Australia is the driest continent on Earth, these companies should be able to share innovative solutions and compelling insight into demand and supply issues here in the U.S.

Competitions

The annual operator competitions are truly a fan favorite. Once again, ACE09 will feature the Tapping Competition, where teams race to install a tap in a pipe; Top Ops, a game show-formatted competition where quick thinking and knowledge are a must; and Meter Madness, where last year's winner, Eric Kresmery, will defend his title. **WWD**

For more information on this event, including registration and hotel and flight information, please visit the ACE09 website at www.awwa.org/ace09.

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Sun and fun at the annual AWWA convention



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