



**American Water Works  
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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

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## NewsRelease

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### **American Water Works Association Kicks Off Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE09) in San Diego**

*Water Industry Professionals from Across the U.S, Canada and Beyond  
Converge to Address Critical Water Issues*

(DENVER) – The world’s water community gathered today in San Diego for the opening of the American Water Works Association’s (AWWA) Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE09) from June 15-18, 2009. Thousands of water industry professionals will explore the future of safe water, gain insight into cutting-edge research and best practices, and experience the latest products and services available to the water community.

ACE09, held at the San Diego Convention Center, features a professional program consisting of approximately 100 sessions, comprised of more than 500 presentations given by more than 1,000 experts in the water industry, plus 15 in-depth workshops.

Highlights include:

- **The Opening General Session, featuring remarks by AWWA President Michael Leonard.** Leonard highlighted the current challenges facing the water community, including new and complex drinking water regulations, water resources and shortages, and aging infrastructure in need of significant repair or replacement. “These are the “seismic events” of our day, which inevitably alter the course of our work. But together, it’s our job – in fact, it’s our obligation – to push onward and find a way to accomplish our mission,” Leonard stated.
- **International Seminars.** Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, delegations from Asia, Mexico and Jordan spoke to manufacturers and service providers about international business opportunities and potential water projects.
- **The “Best of the Best” Taste Test.** Scheduled for June 16 at 2pm. A record twenty utilities will represent the most recent winners of AWWA section competitions. Participants include the 2008 “Best of the Best” winner Louisville Water Company, Toronto Water and New York City’s Department of Environmental Protection.

Over the next few days, in addition to the numerous professional sessions, ACE09 will feature special events such as the always-entertaining AWWA Pipe-Tapping Contest – a fast-paced competition of skill in which water operators from across North America work against the clock to open cement-lined, ductile-iron pipe and install a tap.

The ACE09 Exposition features 500 exhibitors showcasing the latest products and services available to help ensure safe water. These exhibitors offer expert insight and hands-on understanding for everything from pipes to valves, meters to hydrants, engineering services to tank-related companies, membrane filtration systems to laboratory equipment, and security to wastewater.

Established in 1881, AWWA is the oldest and largest nonprofit, scientific and educational organization dedicated to safe water in North America. AWWA has over 60,000 members worldwide, and its 4,600 utility members serve 80 percent of America's population.

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AWWA is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of water in North America and beyond. AWWA is the largest organization of water professionals in the world. AWWA advances public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of the water community. Through our collective strength we become better stewards of water for the greatest good of the people and the environment.