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The International Water Conference® Continues to be a Resource for Information in the Water Industry

The 69th Annual International Water Conference (IWC) met in October 2008. This conference is one of the oldest continuing conferences in the water industry. It continues to provide, in one place, information on both new and established technologies and products used in treating water. The IWC also provides training workshops covering both basic and advanced topics in water treatment.

The 2008 IWC consisted of 21 sessions covering various subjects relating to the water industry. Session topics included Legionella, trace contaminant removal, cooling water, zero discharge, produced water, refinery wastewater, water reclamation & reuse, flue gas desulfurization, boiler water, heavy metal removal, ion exchange, and monitoring. Included in these sessions were 76 papers presented by industry, government, and academic leaders.

One of the most interesting sessions was sponsored by the ASME Research Committee on Water and Steam in Thermal Systems titled Significance of Hydroxide Alkalinity Control in Steam Generation Systems. The various presentations followed by a panel discussion covered topics like Phosphate is Practically Caustic, Sodium Hydroxide in Steam Turbines, and several other hydroxide alkalinity related subjects.

Workshops also provided training in various technologies including boiler water, cooling water, wastewater, ion exchange, and membranes. These workshops were either one day or half-day sessions which provided for continuing education credits if desired.

However, one of the largest advantages of attending the IWC is the opportunity of networking with industry experts in both the exhibit hall and the hospitality suites where a relaxed and casual atmosphere allows for a free flow of ideas and information. The 2008 IWC completely filled the available exhibit space making for a very lively exhibit hall.

One unique feature of the IWC is that sponsoring companies affiliated with the IWC Advisory Council sponsor scholarships awarded to deserving science students. Information concerning the details of these scholarships is available on the conference web site at www.eswp.com/water.

Plans for the 2009 IWC are currently under way with the Call for Papers already out and sessions, workshops, and exhibit space already being reserved. The 2009 IWC is being held in Orlando, Florida at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort on October 4-8, 2009. Details on this conference can be found at the conference web site www.eswp.com/water.

Useful water is becoming a scarcer resource. It is up to us in the water industry to provide the products and services necessary to conserve this valuable resource and help people and industries use it wisely. These products and services need to be supplied to the world at a cost level that allows them to be affordable as well. Conferences like the IWC help us to keep informed on all the latest technologies and products in a cost effective manner. If you are involved in water use and treatment, this is one conference you will want to attend in 2009.

More information regarding the 2009 International Water Conference® may be found at their web site, www.eswp.com/water, or by calling the IWC Conference Manager at (412) 261-0710 ext. 11.

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