U.S. Consul General Juan Alsace.

D. Zafar Adeel speaking as part of the Outside the Water Box plenary panel.

The Hon. Glen Murray.

(L-R) Kerry Freek, Tony Vanbommel, George Tsintzouras, Linda Gowman.

Kevin Wong and Aysha Muzaffar.

Canadian Water Summit Toronto, ON

Collaboration to Action—Leadership and Investment in Canada's Blue Economy was the theme of the 8th annual Canadian Water Summit, which took place over two days on June 21–22. Bringing together over 240 leaders from government, energy, finance, cleantech, academia, conservation, agri-food, and beverage, as well as Indigenous Canadians, CWS 2017 facilitated conversations about how organizations of varied interests can work together to improve water management.

The event kicked off on Wednesday with an experts' panel on stormwater finance, co-hosted by the University of Toronto, School of the Environment's Environmental Finance Advisory Committee in the offices of Bennett Jones, LLP. The panel included **Helge Daebel**, Emerald Technology Ventures; **Phil James**, Credit Valley Conservation Authority; **Victoria Kramkowski**, City of Mississauga; **Tracy Patterson**, Principal Freeman Associates; and moderated by **Katherine Balpataky**, Water Canada/CWS.

Later that evening, dozens of students and young professionals convened at the Merchant Tavern to engage in a speed mentoring session that featured **The Water Brothers** and water experts from a variety of disciplines coordinated by

Toronto Region Conservation Authority. They were joined later by a much larger crowd of delegates for the CWS Ice Breaker networking reception.

In the early morning hours of June 22, for the first time ever, CWS hosted a networking event to discuss trends in workplace innovation, diversity, and prosperity—the Women in Water Networking Breakfast. Dr. **Imogen Coe** of Ryerson University led and panel while breakout discussions focused on gender equality and how diversity leads to innovation in the sector.

CWS emcee **Fred Keating** and chair **Hank Venema** of the International Institute of Sustainable Development welcomed participants to the main event. Minister **Glen Murray** delivered a charged opening keynote on the realities of climate change. Murray was followed by an inspired plenary panel led by Ivey School's **Tima Bansal**, featuring **Nelson Switzer** of Nestlé Waters; **Jon Radtke** of Coca-Cola; **Dan Kraus** of The Nature Conservancy of Canada; and **Chris Godwaldt** of COSIA, speaking about how diverse corporations are partnering to deliver solutions for drought response, groundwater recharge, and data gaps at the watershed scale.

Ontario Environment Commissioner **Dianne Saxe** led a panel on trends

driving non-typical water actors to examine their relationship with water that included **Hank Venema**, **Eric Meliton** of TRCA, **Helge Daebel**, and Dr. **Zafar Adeel** of the Pacific Water Institute. Participants networked with exhibitors and found their lunch before an inspiring presentation by the Honourable **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, introduced Canada C3 expedition leader **Geoff Green** who skyped in from aboard the C3 vessel in the St. Lawrence River.

Afternoon breakouts included two participatory policy pitch sessions from leading Canadian industry associations who shared their best-bet solutions for climate resilience via procurement and design standards for water infrastructure. The afternoon also included sessions on Canada's brand in the global marketplace and ways to address the infrastructure gap in Indigenous communities.

CWS 2017 closed with a networking reception in an outdoor courtyard followed by the annual Water's Next Awards Gala (winners featured on pages 21-33) where 160 water leaders celebrated the accomplishments of this year's finalists and award winners. The organizers are already working on the 9th annual Summit in June 2018 to be held in Western Canada. **watersummit.ca**

Credit: IISD

The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell greets student essay content winners.

(L-R) Kerry Black, Mary Jane Loustel, Wesley Bova, John Kingsbury.

(L-R) Darko Joksimovic, Robert Haller, and another water friend meet in the Waterfall Garden.
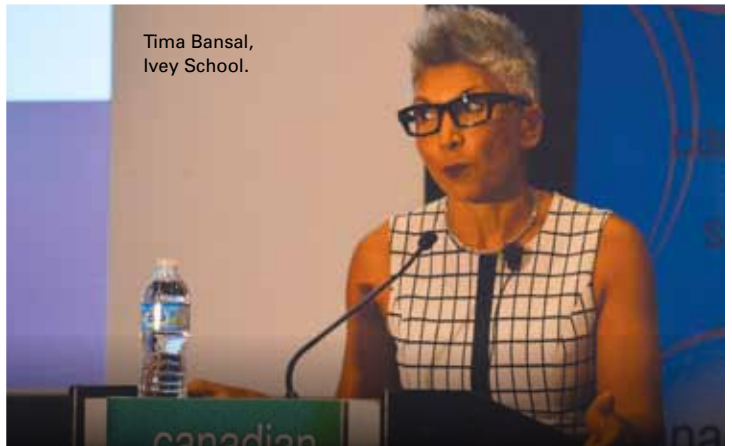

Terry Reese and Hank Venema.

Marisa Sterling, York University discusses workplace diversity at the Women in Water Networking Breakfast.

Our incredible team of volunteers.

(Front to back) Nelson Switzer, Jonathan Radtke, Dan Kraus, and Chris Godwaldt.

Tima Bansal, Ivey School.