

## **1.0 Current Status of ASCE-IS**

American Society of Civil Engineers - India Section (ASCE-IS) is currently going through a transition phase of reorganization and restructuring. This entire process is being undertaken and overseen by the current Interim Executive Committee under the able guidance of Dr. Anil Krishna Kar, with active support from Dr. Himansu Banerjee, Governor Region 10, ASCE from Australia and Ms. Meggan Maughan-Brown, ASCE Director, International Relations and Strategic Planning from ASCE World Head Quarters.

ASCE-IS has sent a draft of the Constitution and Bylaws documents to ASCE HQ for formal approval from the Governing Documents Committee (GDC) of ASCE HQ. A fresh application for registration in the name of "American Society of Civil Engineers India Section" under the West Bengal Society's Act of 1961 is currently under process.

For the purpose of proper and effective governance of the ASCE - India Section, it is proposed to subdivide the subcontinent of India into four (4) Regional Groups with semi-autonomous status. The groups will be, ASCE-IS (East), ASCE-IS (West), ASCE-IS (North), and ASCE-IS (South). ASCE-IS will be governed by an elected Board of Directors (BoD) nationally. There will be four (4) Regional Directors (as a part of the national BoD) who will lead the Regional Groups. The Regional Directors will have their own local sub-committees helping them to extend the activities of ASCE-IS to all corners of India. Once the governing documents are cleared by the GDC, an India-wide election will be held. ASCE HQ has offered to run the election process.

The current Executive Committee is trying to launch a website for India Section in the "www.asce.org" server. In all probability, this will be in place by the end of next month. Efforts are also being made to publish an electronic newsletter ("e-newsletter") for ASCE-India Section members. This edition of e-newsletter is the first one in the series.

## **2.0 Presidential Visit**

American Society of Civil Engineers India Section (ASCE-IS) is pleased to announce that Ms. Kathy Caldwell, ASCE President will be visiting India from 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 to 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011. Ms. Caldwell will be accompanied by Mr. Patrick Natale, ASCE Executive Director and Ms. Meggan Maughan-Brown, ASCE Director, International Relations and Strategic Planning. The visit will be divided into two parts, first two days in Kolkata and the last day in New Delhi. An outline of the Presidential Program is given in the following. The ASCE Presidential visit to India will be organized and managed by the officers of Interim Executive Committee.

### **2.1 Kolkata Program**

#### **31<sup>st</sup> May 2011**

The President and her team are expected to reach Kolkata at 4:30 pm. ASCE-IS President Dr. A K Kar and a few other officers will receive the President and her team at the airport. After initial greetings, they will be escorted to their Hotel.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> June 2011**

The Executive Committee, led by ASCE-IS President Dr. A K Kar, will hold an exhaustive meeting with the Presidential team in the morning. The current administrative, financial, and critical membership issues will be discussed in the meeting. The future activities of ASCE-IS will also form a part of the agenda. This meeting is expected to continue after lunch. A brief session has been organized with the Chief Engineer of Metro Railways to have an idea on the status of Metro Railway in Kolkata and the way it is being planned

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to serve as the most important and effective mode of Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) in Kolkata. An evening seminar has been arranged with the Institution of Engineers, India (IEI) and the ASCE President will briefly address the gathering. Lastly, the President will host a dinner at the Calcutta Club to meet some Special Invitees and invited ASCE members from Kolkata.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011**

President Caldwell and her team are scheduled to meet the President Prabhakar and Secretary General Sanan of IEI. The two Presidents will meet to re-endorse the Agreement of Co-operation (AoC) between ASCE and IEI. A brief conducted tour of the Victoria Memorial, the most famous landmark of Kolkata and a Civil Engineering achievement, is planned for the Presidential team. After lunch, Dr. A K Kar and his team of officers will bid farewell to the President and her team.

## **2.2 New Delhi Round Table Conference (RTC)**

The President and her team will be flying off to New Delhi in the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011 on completing their programs in Kolkata. The President will convene a Round Table Conference (RTC) to meet some New Delhi members, ASCE members identified from the four (4) proposed Regions of India, and a few members of the Interim Executive Committee. This conference is aimed at strategic planning of ASCE activities in India and discuss various aspects of setting up the elected ASCE - India Section to make it a truly representative ASCE - India Section. An overview of the discussion will be posted to members.

## **3.0 Upcoming Events**

### **3.1 Technical Seminar**

The ASCE - India Section will organize a technical talk at the Dr. Triguna Sen Auditorium of Jadavpur University on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This is an open event and is being specially organized for the members of ASCE - India Section. In case any ASCE member is in Calcutta on that particular day, he/she is most welcome to drop by. Every ASCE-IS member is cordially invited and encouraged to come and make it a success. Refreshments and drinks will be served at this event. The event will be presided over by Dr. A K Kar, Interim President of ASCE-IS.

We will have Dr. Arup K SenGupta of Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, USA as one of the speakers. Tentative topic of his presentation is, "Developing Water Technology: From Research Laboratory to Masses in the Field". ASCE India Section is trying to pursue a few other eminent Engineers and Researchers to be potential speakers. This would provide the members with an excellent opportunity to share technical thoughts and know about the emerging state-of-the-art technologies in the field of Civil Engineering.

### **3.2 Field Trip**

A field trip is expected to be organized possibly in September to a prominent facility in the vicinity of Kolkata. The facility is a Civil Engineering marvel and a rather lesser known facility; yet it's got tremendous impact on the lives of million of denizens of the city. Details of the field trip will be conveyed to the members in due course of time. We will start from the ASCE-IS office (BC 96, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 064) at around 10 am and come back after the trip to the same place latest by 6 pm. It would take about an hour and a half to reach the field and about the same time to get back. The actual tour will last for about 2 hours. Refreshments and drinks will be served to the participants. The members can also meet the group directly at the spot as suitable.

#### **4.0 Interim Executive Committee Members**

The names and contact details of the Interim Executive Committee Members are as under. Members are requested to contact any of these officers with any issue or query they might have. Members are also encouraged to convey their professional achievements periodically, preferably directly to the ASCE-IS President. These will be considered for inclusion in future issues of our e-Newsletter. Members are requested to be brief in such communications.

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ASCE-IS Executive Committee members wish all the fellow members and their respective families good health and prosperity in coming months and request their active participation in making ASCE-IS an active international entity of ASCE.