



## *e-Newsletter, Issue 7, November 2011*

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### **Announcement**

*ASCE's Civil Engineering* magazine now provides a new website

[www.asce.org/cemagazine](http://www.asce.org/cemagazine)

that provides exclusive news and feature content on a weekly basis, published in addition to the monthly print content. The magazine also produces a new digital edition

[www.civilengineering-digital.com](http://www.civilengineering-digital.com)

that duplicates the monthly print edition but also provides such enhanced content as videos and slide shows. This is particularly good for younger members and students, who like to read things and watch video online.

#### **1.0 ASCE-IS Southern Region's Activity**

##### **1.1 Lecture at IIT Madras (IITM), Chennai**

ASCE-IS Southern Region organized a lecture on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at the Seminar Hall, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, Chennai. Prof. G L Sivakumar Babu, Vice-President, ASCE-IS Southern Region (SR) delivered a talk on "Constitutive modelling of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Response". This was hosted in association with the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, Chennai. Prof. S R Gandhi, Chairman, Department of Civil Engineering, expressed his happiness and support for activities of ASCE-IS (SR) at the IIT campus. Many other faculty members showed interest and keenness in taking part in this activity.

Mr. K R Pradeep, Secretary, ASCE-IS (SR), other faculty members, and students of IITM attended the lecture. Dr. V B Maji, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, introduced the speaker to the audience.

Prof. Babu started by explaining initially explained the role and advantages of ASCE-IS in bringing together the academic collaborations, technical interactions amongst professionals, and opening ASCE student chapters in different institutes. Later, Prof. Babu pointed out the problems involved in solid waste and landfill engineering in India.

He presented a few cases of failure of landfills and discussed the need for recognizing the engineering involved in managing MSW and its implications in landfill design. He presented his work on modeling the response of MSW. He mentioned that the work evolved as a collaborative research work with Prof. R Krishna R Reddy, Department of Civil and Materials Engineering, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) with good publications and an ASCE Award of best paper.

There had been a meaningful interaction between the participants and Dr. Babu following his talk. Mr. Pradeep gave a vote of thanks and pointed out the immense potential of ASCE-IS in bringing together all disciplines of Civil Engineering under one flagship and in addressing current issues.

#### **Speakers at the Opening Session**



## Membership Advancement

If you are currently an Affiliate or Associate Member of ASCE

ASCE-IS encourages you to upgrade your membership and become a full Member

Please contact us at [asce.is.email@gmail.com](mailto:asce.is.email@gmail.com) or [member@asce.org](mailto:member@asce.org) for guidance

### 1.2 Formation of ASCE Student Chapter at IIT Hyderabad (IITH), October 21

ASCE-IS (SR) formed an ASCE International Student Chapter at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH), by hosting a session on October 21, 2011. This was organized by Prof. Babu with active support from Prof. Dr. Sireesh Saride, Jt. Secretary/Treasurer, ASCE-IS (SR). Prof. Dr. U B Desai, Director, IITH was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Prof. Dr. M R Madhav, Professor Emeritus/Visiting Professor of IITH and JNT University, Hyderabad was the keynote speaker for the evening. Prof. Dr. Saride started the program with a warm welcome to all attendees.

#### Dr. M R Madhav presenting his talk



Prof. Dr. Desai inaugurated the chapter by lighting the lamp with other dignitaries. Prof. Dr. K V L Subramaniam, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, in his welcome address, noted the importance of ASCE in India and extended his support for the society. Prof. Desai, while pledging his support, offered to allocate an office space for such a kind of professional bodies on campus to promote its technical activities. He wished the effort all success.

Prof. Babu spoke specifically to the younger members and students to enlighten them with the advantages of being an ASCE student member. He

encouraged the entire civil engineering faculty from different engineering colleges to become members of ASCE and take part in ASCE events/activities and eventually start ASCE Student Chapters at their respective institutions. Prof. Babu also introduced the inaugural speaker of the evening, Prof. Madhav to the attendees.

Prof. Madhav delivered an enthralling lecture on "Civil Engineering and Development". He emphasized the importance of Food, Diligence and Living to show how Civil Engineering is significant for improving living quality. Dr. Madhav stressed upon the theme that "job of Civil Engineer is like that of a Painter"; one will see a beautiful infrastructure at the end of all efforts by civil engineers just like a beautifully painted wall after all the initial graffiti and rough work. His lecture mentioned various civil engineering landmarks across the world and their respective uniqueness. His lecture captured the importance of civil engineering to the students and professionals present.

Faculty members of IIT Hyderabad, ASCE members, other delegates, and students from various Engineering colleges in and around Hyderabad (JNTU, GITAMS, CBIT, etc.) participated in the event. Total number of participants was about 150.

#### Volunteers of the Event



Dr. Sireesh gave a vote of thanks and encouraged the members and students to participate in such future events to exchange ideas and promote interactions.

During the dinner, many ideas were exchanged informally among, ASCE members, faculty and students for future road map. Many faculty members from engineering colleges have shown interest in starting professional activities under ASCE banner.

### 1.3 Forthcoming Events

*December 12, 2011:* (Tentative) Lecture on Performance of Airfield Concrete Pavements Subjected to Harsh Environmental Conditions by Prof. Prasad Rangaraju, Department of Civil Engineering, Clemson University, Clemson, USA. Possibilities of making a very good workshop on concrete in connection with the event are being explored.

*February 25, 2012:* Workshop on “Geosynthetic lining solutions for Infrastructural Development”. A number of experts and manufacturing and supply companies of geosynthetic products are expected to participate.

*For details, please contact* Prof. Dr. G L Sivakumar Babu, Vice President, ASCE-IS Southern Region, <gls@civil.iisc.ernet.in>, Mr. K P Pradeep, Secretary <dicomnett@yahoo.com>, Dr. Sireesh S, Joint Secretary/Treasurer, <sireesh@iith.ac.in>

### 2.0 ASCE-IS Northern Region’s Student Activity (International Student Chapter Initiative, Delhi Technological University, New Delhi)

ASCE-IS Northern Region, in its initiative to open an ASCE International Student Chapter, conducted a promotional program at the “Senate

#### A view of the gathering



### Mr. S K Vij in discussion the Faculty Members



Hall” of Delhi Technological University (DTU), New Delhi on October 31, 2011.

The ASCE team was welcomed and felicitated by the Head, Department of Civil Engineering. The chief guest of the event was the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University. The University Dean of Student Welfare was also present on the occasion.

Mr. Ashok K Gupta, HOD, opened the session with his welcome address and introduced the ASCE representatives to the students and faculty. He also rolled out the agenda for the day. Mr. Satish Vij, Vice-President ASCE-IS (NR), talked about ASCE, its potential as an Engineering Society, the membership benefits, and requirements of an International Student Chapter in his presentation.

After this, Mr. Arif Ali Siddiqui, Secretary, ASCE-IS (NR) gave a technical presentation on the topic entitled, “Basic understanding of constructability”. A student design competition for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year (4<sup>th</sup>) students was then conducted. The students were given a simple but tricky concrete design problem. This included design of slab, cantilever beams, simply supported beams, and some columns.

Subsequent to this, a concrete design competition was organized for the students. About 50 students participated in this. Due to time constraints, copies turned in by the students could not be checked on the same day. The copies are currently being checked and the results of this competition will be announced shortly to select the winners.

Prizes to the winners are being sponsored by the DTU. Certificate of achievement to first 3 positions would be presented by ASCE-IS (NR).