The speaker of the annual luncheon event, Mr. Daniel W. Krueger, P.E., the Director of Public Works and Engineering of City of Houston with ASIE Board Members.

Ravi Kaleyatodi, Senior Assistant Director, City of Houston and Jun Chang, Deputy Director, Utilities, City of Houston also attended. Merchant noted that the ASIE had over 120 active members, about 60 life members, and 16 corporate members and said his goal is to double the numbers in 2013 during his presidency. He added that the proceeds from the event would go towards the ASIE Scholarship program, which this year will offer five $2,000 scholarships.

As Director of PWD, Krueger is responsible for overseeing the Department’s services to Houstonians through the planning, operation, maintenance, construction management and technical engineering of the City’s public infrastructure. The Department’s responsibilities include operation and maintenance of the City’s streets and drainage, production and distributions of water, collection and treatment of wastewater, and permitting and regulation of public and private construction. The Department is staffed with a trained work force of approximately 3,900 and operates with an annual budget of approximately $1.2 billion.

Krueger gave more details about the function of his department. He discussed the latest initiatives adopted by the City for improving the public infrastructure including drainage, utilities, roadways and sidewalks, and also about the Rebuild Houston program. He briefly mentioned the City’s CIP program and cited a study by the American Society of Civil Engineers, which graded the City’s infrastructure and encouraged participation of local engineers and construction managers to make future improvements for the City.