As the President of the American Society of Indian Engineers (ASIE), I would like to extend my warm welcome and appreciation to all new and returning ASIE members, sponsors, supporters, and friends. ASIE is a non-profit professional organization serving the Indian community in the Greater Houston Area for last sixteen years. ASIE members include engineers, architects, and IT professionals of Indian origin. ASIE holds Monthly Meetings and provides a platform for Networking and Mentoring for Professional Development of its members. ASIE also offers Scholarships to Students (with Indian heritage) in the Greater Houston Area, and supports other initiatives that promote engineering and architecture, in general, such as Science Fair, MathCounts, and E-Week programs. Every year, ASIE sponsors nine awards for the Science Fair participants.

In addition to the technical and professional events, ASIE has also helped to organize job fairs and raise funds for the natural disaster relief assistance.

ASIE collaborates with other professional organizations to organize joint events. Even though our primary focus is on professional development, ASIE also organizes family fun events including the Annual Picnic and Diwali Dinner to promote community interaction at a different level and share the pride of being an Indian Professional with our future generations.

ASIE appreciates the efforts of its members, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and friends in its continued success. ASIE is delighted to issue this newsletter for the first quarter of 2011. We look forward to your continuous support and personal participation in future ASIE endeavors.

Ashish Bagga, P.E.
Monthly Activities

January

ASIE kicked off the New Year with a very interesting and informative PDH seminar on “City of Houston Street Cut and Restoration Requirements” at Madaras Pavilion in Sugar land, Texas.

The speaker, Mr. Langesh Varsheny, P.E., Managing Engineer, Construction Services Section, City of Houston, spoke about the permitting process for the street cut and restoration. He also shared detailed information regarding the required fees required to get street cut permits.

Mr. Langesh Varsheny, P.E.

Mr. Varshney has been working as Managing Engineer with office of the City Engineer in department of Public Works and Engineering for a little over five years. Before joining City of Houston, Mr. Varshney worked in private industries for more than 16 years in design and construction management areas. As a Managing Engineer with City of Houston, Mr. Varshney manages, oversees, inspects and accepts the underground utilities and paving by private developers in City Right Of Way. Mr. Varshney’s section also administers and implements street cut ordinance requirements for all the construction projects throughout the City.

Mr. Chad Patel presenting a plaque to Mr. Langesh Varsheny

Mr. Varshney has a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from Delhi College of Engineering and a Masters in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, Norman. Mr. Varshney is a life member of ASIE and served on the Board of Directors for two years.

PDH certificates were awarded to all attendees.

Past ASIE President Mr. Raj Tanwani was also presented with a plaque by current ASIE Board advisor Mr. Ravi Arora, for his excellent work for the organization during 2010.

Mr. Ravi Arora presenting a plaque to Mr. Raj Tanwani
February

ASIE volunteered at the “MathCounts Competition” held at Fluor Corporation, Sugarland, TX on February 5, 2011. Chad Patel, Shekhar Ambadapudi, Ashish Bagga, Srinivas Chintalapati, and Bhavana Patel volunteered as Graders and Ramesh Cheriviala and Sushovan Guha volunteered as Proctors at the competition. Math-Counts is a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics in every U.S. state and territory.

On February 17, ASIE had a very remarkable presentation on “Advances in Water Treatment Technologies and Operations Optimization” at Bayland Community Center. The speaker, Dr. Sunil Kommineni, PhD, PE, BCEE talked about water treatment technologies.

Dr. Kommineni is a water quality and treatment technology specialist with Malcolm Pirnie, the Water Division of ARCADIS, and leads Malcolm Pirnie’s Distribution System Service Group. He has an extensive background and experience with advanced water treatment technologies. Over the past decade, he has worked with several large and small water providers of Texas, Arizona, California and Colorado on integrating new technologies into existing and new surface water treatment plants. Recently, Dr. Kommineni has been assisting water providers with conducting plant evaluations and developing strategies and techniques to optimize plant operations and reduce the cost to produce good quality water.

All attendees learned about surface and ground water and different technologies used for surface water treatment. They also learned that bottled water is not always better than tap water from the local government. PDH certificates were awarded to all attendees.
February, Cont.

ASIE participated in the "Engineer's Week’ events for 2011 along with other professional organizations in Houston. The events were held February 20-26, 2011. Mohan Atluri was recognized as ASIE’s “Young Engineer of the Year 2011”. Srinivas Chintalapati, Suchitra Chiravuri, Ashish Bagga and Mohan Atluri represented ASIE at the Young Engineers Award Recognition Dinner held at Intercontinental Houston Hotel on February 23, 2011.

ASIE board members attended the Engineer of the Year Award banquet dinner held at Intercontinental Houston Hotel on February 25, 2011. D. Wayne Klotz, P.E., D.WRE of Klotz Associate Inc., was recognized as “Engineer of the Year 2011 for Houston Area” at the event.

ASIE Board members at the Engineer of the Year Award Banquet

ASIE past President and current member Ms. Tanu Hiremath, P.E. is the ASIE representative of E-Week Committee for 2010-2011.

March

On March 17, 2011, ASIE organized a seminar on “Ethics Presentation—Update on the Board Of Professional Engineers.” Presenter Dr. Daniel O. Wong, P.E. is current Board Member of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Dr. Daniel O. Wong, PhD, P.E.

Dr. Wong graduated from the University of Houston with a B.S.C.E. in 1983, a M.S.C.E. in 1985 and Ph.D. in 1988. He co-founded Tolunay-Wong Engineers Inc. in 1993 and serves as its President and CEO. The firm currently has offices in Houston, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Dallas area, Gonzales, LA, and Gainesville, FL. Dr. Wong holds engineer licenses in Texas, Oklahoma, Florida and Louisiana. He has published a dozen peer-reviewed technical papers and lectured at the University of Houston and Texas A&M University. In 2005, Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed Dr. Wong to serve on the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, and he has been reappointed for a new term in 2008.
March, Cont.

Dr. Wong is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers and National Society of Professional Engineers. He was recognized as the Young Engineer of the Year by the Sam Houston Chapter of TSPE in 1993. He was the recipient of the 1989 John B Hawley Award by the Texas Section of the ASCE. He was recognized as the Distinguished Engineering Alumnus by the University of Houston in 2009. Dr. Wong was elected as an At-Large City Councilman for the City of Sugar Land and served on the city council until 2008. He currently serves on the board of Sugar Land Heritage Foundation. He is also a board member of Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce and a trustee of Fort Bend Economic Development Council.

Dr. Srinivas Chintalapati presenting a plaque to Dr. Daniel O. Wong

It was a very interactive and fun filled seminar. Dr. Wong talked about the TBPE, its committees and the functions of the board. He also informed attendees about the new proposed bills to combine the Texas Board of Professional Engineers with Architecture and other professional boards. He clarified many questions regarding engineers with State of Texas professional license working in other States in USA, Canada and Australia.

Attendees at March Monthly Meeting

Dr. Wong talked about ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) approaching all boards to increase education requirements and how that is going to affect future engineers.

He encouraged all attendees to write to board about their concerns. PDH certificates were awarded to all attendees.

Attendees enjoying a delicious dinner at March Monthly meeting
ASIE BOARD FOR 2011

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Corporate Members

Note: To Become a Corporate Member contact ASIE
Near completion, Hess Tower located in downtown Houston is an 845,000 square foot, 29-story office building. This building is pre-certified for Gold LEED and includes many "green building features", including ten wind turbines at the top of the building to help generate electricity. This will be the first time wind turbines have been incorporated as design feature in a Houston office building. Other sustainable design features include a green roof and solar shading fins on the building's South elevation.

Currently, the wind turbines are not working but hopefully you can find them working and see them in action next time when you are traveling on 45 South near downtown.