

ACES 8th Annual Conference

ACES held its 8th annual conference on April 14-16 at the Novotel hotel in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia under the theme "Self Evaluation of ACES Group- A study and exploration ." The conference was chaired by the Founders and Directors of ACES, Dr. Izz Eddin Katkhuda and Dr. Omar Abdulhadi, and attended by the regional and branch managers of ACES of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Qatar, Yemen, Oman and Sudan.

Highlights of ACES 8TH Annual Conference:

- The conference was opened with welcoming remarks and speeches by Dr. Katkhuda and Dr. Abdulhadi.
- The 3 days conference was filled with interesting topics and presentations providing a platform to assess and evaluate ACES performance during 2011-2012 and to strategize for the following years.
- Mr. Fouad Al Dajani, from Areej Capital in Saudi Arabia was invited as an external speaker to the conference to provide the attendees with his insights and expertise on the Saudi construction market.



ACES wishes to take this opportunity to express its special thanks to Dr. Amjad Barghouthi, Regional Manager of Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Jordan and Eng. Musa Afaneh, ACES Riyadh Manager, as well as all those who assisted with the conference details and planning, for an excellent 2012 conference.

ACES Senior Employees First Conference

ACES Senior Employees First Conference was held at the Marriot Dead Sea in Jordan from 17-19 March, 2012. The conference, which was attended by the department managers, technical managers and senior staff from all ACES branches as well as the Corporate Headquarters (CH) department managers and company directors, provided invaluable opportunity for meeting, exchanging information, enhancing collaboration between branches, group bonding, unifying policies and systems, entrenching ACES culture, discussing technical, administrative and operational issues.

The conference schedule comprised general and technical sessions.

The general sessions, which were attended by all participants, included presentations by the directors, CH department managers and Regional Center of Excellence(RCE) managers. The technical presentations ran in two concurrent sessions, one for the geotechnical topics and the other for the material testing, quality control and special studies topics. Those technical presentations were delivered by the department managers and senior staff from the various branches.

The participants enjoyed not only the technical part of the conference, but also the social events that followed the daily presentations. Certificates were provided to all participants by the company directors at the end of the conference.



Presentations by Pile Testing & Instrumentation and Geophysical Studies Regional Centers of Excellence at ACES Abu Dhabi

The Pile Testing & Instrumentation (PT&I) Regional Center of Excellence, which is positioned at ACES Dubai, has conducted a presentation on pile testing and behavior at ACES Abu Dhabi on 20 December, 2011. The first part of the presentation was delivered by Eng. Santhosh Paul, PT&I Center of Excellence Manager, who highlighted the tests and services provided by Center of Excellence. Eng. Emad Sharif, ACES Dubai & Muscat Manager, gave the second part of the presentation which discussed the interpretation of static pile loading test results.



The Geophysical Studies Regional Center of Excellence, which is also located at ACES Dubai, has conducted a presentation on geophysical methods at ACES Abu Dhabi on 21 February, 2012. Dr. Mohammed Hassouneh, Geophysical Studies Center of Excellence Projects Manager, gave an overview on geophysical methods used for geotechnical engineering problems and method of selection. The second part of the presentation was delivered by Dr. Anis Al-Bis, Geophysical Studies Center of Excellence Manager, and addressed the surface geophysical methods. Eng. Mahmoud Harb, Geophysical Engineer, discussed the borehole geophysical methods as well as well logging.

Both presentations were attended by staff from ACES Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al Ain offices. The participants had the chance to exchange knowledge and share information from local experiences and projects.

ACES Doha Extends its Material Testing Services

ACES Doha extends its services on material testing specially tests for road marking materials, Manhole covers, Gullies and Vitrified Clay Pipes. Tests include determination of binder content, glass bead content, softening point (Ring & Ball), flash point, initial Luminance, wet film thickness, etc for Thermoplastic and Glass beads and for VC pipes bending movement resistance, crushing strength and load tests for Manhole covers and Gullies.



Extension of ISO17025 Accreditation Scope of ACES Abu Dhabi

ACES Abu Dhabi successfully completed its ISO/IEC 17025-2005 Accreditation surveillance audit by IAS, USA where the following new tests were added to the approved accreditation scope:

- Total and Dissolved Organic Carbon - APHA5310B
- Total Coliforms- APHA 9223B (IDEXX Colilert Method)
- Fecal Coliforms- APHA 9223B (IDEXX Colilert Method)
- E.coli - APHA 9223B (IDEXX Colilert Method)
- Enterococci - ASTM D6503-99(IDEXX Enterolert Method)

ACES Abu Dhabi's ISO/IEC 17025-2005 Accreditation includes wide scope of materials and environmental tests. The complete List of all accredited tests can be seen on www.iasonline.org , or provided upon request. During the closing meeting, Dr. Sri Ghanthan, IAS Lead Assessor, praised ACES Abu Dhabi's continually improving quality management system which is in compliance with ISO/IEC 17025-2005 requirements.



ACES Abu Dhabi Quality and Laboratory Management Team along with Dr. Sri Ghanthan, IAS Lead Assessor (third from left) after the closing meeting

News from ACES Riyadh

Eng. Essam Hanafi Gomaa Attends Safety & Health Training & Risk Assesor Course



ACES Riyadh Social Committee Organizes Football Matches



special projects department team



geotechnical department team

Selected Major Projects

ACES Abu Dhabi

- ACES Abu Dhabi geotechnical and survey departments secured a new ADCO project for Mott Mac Donald at Habshan. The project includes the topographical survey and underground detection of 79 km pipelines and 4 Remote Manifold Stations as well as installing survey benchmarks along the pipeline. Geotechnical works will consist of 41 boreholes and electrical resistivity testing, test pits and wide range of laboratory tests.
- ACES Abu Dhabi is currently working on geotechnical investigation of the proposed extension of Marina Mall-II, Abu Dhabi for M/S NIS (National Investment Corporation). The scope of works comprises of drilling of 45 boreholes, out of which 7 boreholes up to 50.0m and remaining 38 boreholes up to 35.0m, in addition to Falling Head Permeability Tests on soil overburden, Down Hole Seismic tests up to depth of 50.0m, installation of standpipe piezometers and many other field and laboratory tests.



ACES Sana'a

- ACES Sana'a conducted soil investigation for the Ibb Water Supply and Sanitation project in Ibb City. The scope of work included drilling and Trial Pits excavation to determine the parameters of the soil for the designer. The consultant is Dar Al Handasah.
- ACES Sana'a conducted soil investigation for the airport runway project in the oil field. The scope of work included drilling and Trial Pits excavation to determine the parameters of the soil for the designer. The contractor is Hawk Int. and the consultant is OMV.



ACES Doha

- ACES Doha successfully completed the quality control works for the Construction of Barwa City - Phase 1 Project with Bilfinger Berger which includes operation of site laboratory for soil testing and concrete testing with monthly quality control program. The total duration of the project is 4 years.
- Samsung Engineering & Construction Group has signed a contract with ACES Doha on April 2012 for Lusail Development Project – CP5B, Roads A1, A2, D2 and D3 North including Utility Tunnels and Connections. ACES Doha scope of work includes Soil, Concrete and Asphalt testing with site quality control program. It is worth pointing out that ACES Doha and SAMSUNG has joint together for the second time for Lusail development within a year of time.

ACES Jeddah

- ACES Jeddah completed geotechnical and materials work for the Jeddah Storm Water & Drainage Program (Dams Works) Project (Phase 1) at six sites in Jeddah Area and recently awarded and completed the work for phase 2 at two sites. The scope of work includes drilling of approximately 100nos. boreholes to various depths, auguring, performing field Permeability in Soil (Approximately 120Nos.), performing Packer Tests in Rock (Approximately 100Nos.), excavation of trial pits (Approximately 100Nos.), Installation & monitoring of piezometers (Approximately 20 Nos.). Laboratory tests include, sieve analysis, Plasticity Index Tests, UCS tests, Point Load Tests, Direct Shear Tests, Modified Proctor tests (Moisture-Density Relationship), Laboratory CBR Tests and Routine chemical tests for Soil and Water Samples. The project Contractor is Saudi Geological Survey (SGS),
- ACES Jeddah was recently awarded and started the field testing works for the Kempinski Hotel. The scope of project include Pile testing, Calliper Test (600 to 1500mm dia), Cross hole sonic, Static and Lateral Load Test.
Kempinski Hotels is a new five star luxury hotel on Jeddah Cornish overlooking the Red Sea shores. The program for the 60-story, 63,000 sm building mixes a 242-key luxury hotel, 104 residential units, amenities, support spaces, and 600-car enclosed parking.



ACES Muscat

Several major projects are currently conducted by ACES Muscat Geotechnical team including:

- Geotechnical Investigation for M/s. Astaldi-Ozkar Joint Venture for dualization of Bidbid Sur Road Section, Package 1A with a scope of drilling 53 boreholes ranging from 20m to 25m deep, excavation of 5 trial pits, 65 direct shear testing and reporting. The Project includes several large span bridge foundations (abutments) in complex mountainous area.
- Geotechnical and Environmental Investigation for proposed site in Nureimi in Oman comprising 30 BHs with depths up to 40m or 3m blow GWT, with 66 Lab. Constant head permeability tests and sampling of soil and GW for environmental parameters tests. The Consultant is M/s. Worley Parsons.

New Recruitments @ ACES



Mr. Suhail Moosa Khamis
Deputy Branch Manager
ACES Muscat

Mr. Suhail Moosa Khamis joined ACES Muscat on 5th May 2012 as Deputy Branch Manager. He obtained his M.Sc. in 2006 in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Teesside, England, United Kingdom. Worked for more than seventeen years for the civil services at the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and the Ministry of Water Resources. Served for about 2 years in an oil production sector at the Occidental Mukhaizna project in the Sultanate of Oman. Worked for Exova (Previously Bodycote Material Testing Services) for three and a half years. Over these years he had supervised three different types of laboratories; research laboratories (in the government sector), oil field production laboratories and commercial laboratories. His technical exposure covered various fields of chemistry related subjects, such as; environmental chemistry, hydrochemistry, geochemistry, oil field chemistry. He was a member in the National Groundwater Master Plan Team and a member in the Water Potability Specifications Committee. He has successfully supervised Bachelor projects and trained several students on their interim summer projects.



Mr. Saed Eweisi
Asset Manager
ACES (CH)

It is the pleasure of ACES top management to announce that Mr. Saed Eweisi was appointed to manage the Asset Management Unit that was established at the Corporate Headquarter (CH) of ACES starting May 1st 2012. Mr. Saed holds a Bachelor degree in Computer Information Systems and a Master degree in Business Administration (MBA), both from Bradley University in U.S.A. He has more than fifteen years of experience in Information technology, Marketing, and professional training. Ten of the fifteen years was at Caterpillar Inc., the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment.

ACES takes this opportunity to wish both Mr. Khamis and Mr. Eweisi a successful and fruitful career with ACES.

Dr. Izz Eddin Katkhuda Attends the IAS Board of Directors Meeting in the USA

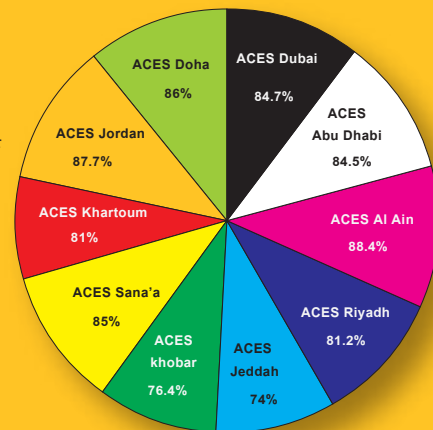


Dr. Izz Eddin Katkhuda, ACES Partner and Director, attended the IAS Board of Directors meeting held in San Diago, USA, on the 18TH May 2012. Dr. Katkhuda is the only international IAS Board member. IAS is a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC) and is non profit organisation.



ACES 2011 Customer Satisfaction Results

ACES developed a comprehensive and detailed methodology for conducting the annual customer satisfaction survey a few years ago. The main purpose of the survey is to better understand what ACES customers think of ACES services, performance and people and identify areas for improvement as well provide feedback on the performance of ACES offices in the markets of operation. ACES has commissioned specialized people in market research in each of ACES offices to carry out the annual customer satisfaction surveys, analyze the results and report the findings to management for action. The pie shown on the right represents ACES 2011 customer satisfaction survey results in ACES markets of operation.



**Your Satisfaction
is Our Aim**

ACES Participates in the Second Forum for Arab Engineers in Beirut

Orouba Al-Rafay'a, material engineer in ACES Aqaba, represented ACES in the Second Forum for Arab Engineers' the Female Arab Engineer in the Decision-Making Position" which was held from Friday 11 to Saturday 12 May, 2012 in the Unesco Palace, and in the Engineers Association in Beirut. The Forum was organized by the Arab Engineers Union and the Lebanese Engineers Union – female Engineers Committee under the patronage of the president of Lebanese Republic General Michael Suleiman represented by the Minister of Public Works and Transportation Ghazi Al Areedi. The Conference discussed the status of the Arab Female Engineer as a leader, distinguished pioneer, to enable and support her to reach the decision-making position. In addition, the conference discussed some of the leading female Engineers stories of success. It also focused on the important role of the Arab Female engineer in facing the big challenges to reach the decision making positions on professional, associational and national levels.

