



AAAEA NEWSLETTER

— AAAEA: TEN YEARS LATER —

contributed by Ayoub Talhami, PE

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the early steps that led to what became AAAEA, and I was asked to write this article as a small token celebrating our early beginnings. While gladly accepting the task, I am choosing to write as an observer taking a broad view free from the shackles of details and thus free to roam. I am more concerned with the long-term future rather the past but share a deep commitment for the survival of AAAEA over the foreseeable decades. I will therefore reflect not only on our successes but, more importantly, on the underlying factors that will continue to affect our future. In doing so, I have talked to and sought the views of those who served in elected offices, but what follows reflects only my own views, some of which may be provocative.

Those who took the initiative ten years ago are the pioneers who made it all happen. They deserve our deep gratitude. Their accomplishment will speak on their behalf for years to come. All of you, who participated in those early meetings, please stand up and take a bow without being called by name, because no records were kept and memories have faded. By design or divine guidance, you devised a successful formula to serve you in the design of the foundation, the frame and the superstructure. Your formula was the epitome of simplicity and common sense: an organization with a clear purpose and narrowly defined focus whose membership qualifications are two: a learned profession and ethnicity. The learned profession is engineering which is dedicated to serve the health, safety and welfare of mankind. The ethnicity is broadly defined

as ancestry which hails from an Arab country, with the term "Arab" understood to mean culture rather than pure ethnicity. The organization you created transcends nationality, politics, religion, sects, dialects and hometowns, regardless of whatever coloration may fit the majority of the membership at any given time. For the last ten years, we were fortunate by having had at the helm of the organization successive leaderships that continued to sanctify the focus and the vision without deviations or detours, despite occasional pull and push. Each administration continued to follow the course and build on the accomplishments of the previous administration. Each was motivated by commitment to public service, not power, ego, glory or personal agenda. Bilal Almasri, Ahmad Hammad, Soliman Khudeira and Abder Rahman Ghouleh, please take a bow. Clear and narrowly defined focus has been the underlying factor that distinguishes AAAEA and keeping this focus in sight has enabled us to be where we are now.

By design or divine guidance also, the bylaws created an advisory Board, which has no enumerated duties or powers. Ultimately, the Board will consist of ten past presidents and five appointed members. I am discussing this matter here only because of what the Board has become to signify and the subtle influence it has acquired. The initial members of the Board were all appointed by the Executive Committee and consisted of members deemed to be committed to the goals and success of the organization, or who by virtue of professional

experience or stature, organizational experience or involvement, were deemed to possess the expertise, ability and willingness to give of themselves for the good of the organization. The Board has now been enriched by the four past presidents with the hands-on experience they bring and will be further enriched by future past presidents. We need not know if this was an underhanded way to ensnare the past presidents and keep them around, involved and available or it was simply divine guidance. What matters is that the Board has become a repository of talent, expertise and commitment standing by to be called upon for special tasks or assignments, provide input or consultation, serve on committees, and has become also a thread of stability and continuity. The composition of the Board and the working relationship with the Executive Committee have, subtly and imperceptibly, transformed the Board into a symbolic beacon whose flickering light is a constant reminder of the focus, direction, values and traditions, and at times a symbolic compass to point the way, all without becoming intrusive and without forgetting that it is only advisory.

Organizations are distinguished by the services they offer to their membership and these services become the magnet for new members to join and the current members to renew. Thus the cycle goes on and the organization earns added credibility and a new lease on life. For a good summary of the cumulative accomplishments over the years, I strongly recommend visiting the May 2006 issue of our Newsletter, where immediate Past President Abder Rahman Ghoulah gave an excellent and very readable report. Here I would only highlight some areas of what was well done and what else we need to address. AAAEA earns a medal for its services to the members at large as well as the community in general in these areas: EIT and PE review courses, technical seminars, field trips, mathcounts, bridge competition, WYSE, ACT tutoring for high school students, involvement in other engineering organizations, particularly the Illinois Engineering Council where four of our members have served or are currently serving as officers: Hani Miri as President, Soliman Khudeira as Vice President, Ahmad Hammad as Director and Moosa Matariyeh as Secretary. Another medal goes to the efforts invested in career enhancement, assistance in the preparation of resumes and coaching for job

interviews. Many a member secured employment, relocation or advancement through these efforts and more importantly through the informal networking and referrals. Our web site and Forum have become valuable links amongst our members and between them and others nationally and internationally to share views, seek help, solve problems and offer advice for sticky situations that engineers all over face daily. These endeavors should certainly be sustained and expanded.

Kudos to our successive membership committees over the years for having done a credible job without being hampered by the fact that they functioned as a "committee of one" for the most part. Our membership has oscillated around 200 and at times reached 300. New blood has come in and old workhorses are still around. It should be said however that membership retention and expansion are not the responsibility of the membership chairman or committee alone, although the membership committee must continue to shoulder the load. For that, it does need a chairman **plus** working members.

In this connection, a general observation should be noted about committees in general. They are the backbone of any organization and the training ground for future leaders. They are where the real work is done and where loyal and dedicated members deliver accomplishments while, for the most part, they remain nameless and faceless, the unknown soldiers whose work speaks on their behalf. In our case however, a disproportionate portion of the load continues to be borne by the President and a few elected officers. This should not be the case. We need to strive to reach a stage where each Committee Chairman recruits members to serve on the committee, identifies goals for the year, prepares a timeline for the execution and presents periodic status reports. The President delegates, monitors and follows up. When we reach that stage, we will then, **and only then**, have become an institution that can perpetuate itself, regardless of who the president and the elected officers may be. Probably one of the early tasks that a future president should look into is to hold a training session for all committee volunteers and the elected officers to address this issue and embark on a course of action.

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Arab American Association of Engineers & Architects

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AAAAEA NEWSLETTER

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President's Message



Jamal Grainawi, SE, PE

Greetings,

On May 20, 2006, AAAEA members elected a new executive board and me as president. I do want to thank everyone for all the support and encouragement you have given me. I would also like to thank you for your commitment and belief in me and in AAAEA! I am deeply honored to accept the presidency of this distinguished Association for the 2006/2007 year, which coincides with the AAAEA 10th Anniversary. At the same time, I feel very humble in following the footsteps of those who have come before me. In becoming the 5th president of this great Association, the path I marched did not come without struggle and hard work.

This year we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the foundation of the AAAEA. The Association was founded in 1996. Ten years later, AAAEA is still going strong and has spread to other States. The 10th Anniversary will be celebrated in Chicago in many ways throughout the 2006/2007 year.

We have been very successful to date and I would like to share those successes and all the progress we have made together.

Activity Committee: We hosted four picnics during summer 2006, including a joint picnic with BAR, Medical and Business. We also planned a soccer game outing on October 7th to see the Chicago Fire in their new Stadium in Bridgeview. Other activities include our special semi-annual meeting on November 10th celebrating our tenth anniversary, the bowling party, and our social dinner in spring 07.

Education Committee: Professional Development opportunities for our members are high priority for the Board. The education committee established a series of top quality training for the entire year. They established monthly dinner meeting/seminars on the last Wednesday or Thursday of each month. Most of these seminars are conducted jointly with other engineering organizations, and provide a minimum of one PDH per seminar. The program also includes a full day technical conferences (fall and spring), an EIT review courses (fall and spring - 13 lectures each), PE and

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UPCOMING EVENT

AAAEA Technical Conference

Date: Friday, November 18th, 2006

Time: 8:30 am (registration) • 9:00-4:30 pm

Place: HBM Engineering Group, LLC
4415 West Harrison Street, Conf. Room 304
Hillside, Illinois 60162

Cost: \$20 (members) • \$30 (nonmembers)

Notes: Lunch & refreshments are included in the cost
Reserve by November 16, 2006

Email – aaaaea@aaaaea.org
Call – (312) 409-8560 (Voice Mail)
(708)236-0900 (Work-HBM)

EDITOR'S NOTE

I would like to thank all members for their contributions to the Newsletter, especially Ayoub Talhami and Abder R. Ghouleh.

We are always in need of articles for the Newsletter, so we strongly encourage you to send in material to us.

Thank you,

Ibrahim Shillo
Publication Committee
aaaaea@aaaaea.org

**Get ready for
National Engineers Week!
February 18–27, 2007**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2006

10th – Semi-Annual Dinner

18th – Technical Conference

December 2006

20th – Technical Seminar

Date TBA – Career Workshop

January 2007

Date TBA – Family Bowling

Date TBA – EIT Review

Date TBA – Technical Seminar

February 2007

18-24th – Engineers Week

Date TBA – Technical Seminar

March 2007

Date TBA – Hafleh

Date TBA – Technical Seminar

Engineers – Turning Ideas into Reality

National Engineers Week, February 18-24, 2007

contributed by Jamal Grainawi, SE, PE

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK
www.eweek.org
CHICAGOLAND ENGINEERS WEEK
www.chicagolandeweek.org

The Engineering Awards Benefit always coincides with the Friday of National Engineers Week. National Engineers Week is a week-long program to encourage students of all ages, from elementary through high school, to consider careers in engineering and to highlight the contributions of engineers to the well-being of society.

Future City Competition

School teams of 7th and 8th grades will create their city including transportation, housing, energy, police and other key components. Consider introducing your local junior high school to the Future City Competition. The necessary SimCity™ 3000 software will be available to registrants. Registration can be completed on the website at www.futurecity.org. Regional judging is January 17, 2006 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The winning team goes on to the national contest in Washington DC.

Consider introducing your local junior high school to the Future City Competition. The necessary SimCity™ software will be available to registrants on August 1, 2005. Registration can be completed on the website at www.futurecity.org. Deadline is October 18, 2006.

Contact Dr. Soliman Khudeira (312) 744-9605.

Discover “E” Program

We are looking for Engineers to go into schools to lecture on engineering achievements and careers in the field of science, engineering and technology. Contact Jamal Grainawi (312) 803-6516.

Dupage Engineers’ Week Expo – February 24

www.rice.iit.edu/engineersweek

Includes presentation on topical engineering subjects. Hands-on exhibits and displays by local engineering societies. Contact IIT/Rice Campus at (630) 682-6008.

Want to get involved in this Expo that is held every year during National Engineers Week at the Illinois Institute of Technology Rice Campus in Wheaton? The Saturday afternoon program draws close to 1500 middle-school students and provides hands-on

exhibits that introduce the students to all different types of engineering. It takes a lot of planning and volunteering to make this Expo the success that it is. The Steering Committee is chaired by Barbara Kozi of IIT and is made up of volunteers from various engineering societies, including SAE, WSE, ASCE and SEAOL. Volunteer to help represent AAAEA at this Expo.

AAAEA Essay/Poster Competition

Students in grades 3 through 8 write a 250 word essay and design a poster depicting an engineer and engineering achievement which has made an impact on their life. Contact Dr. Moussa Issa (708) 236-0900.

IIT Bridge Building Contest

High school physics students design a bridge to withstand the high loading using the least material. Judging scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th at IIT. Contact Jamal Grainawi (312) 803-6516.

Math Counts

7th and 8th grade students prompt a lively exchange of basic arithmetic skills, math logic, probability and statistics, linear algebra and polynomials through competition. The program is sponsored by NSPE/ISPE. For more information, please visit MATHCOUNTS website at www.mathcounts.org.

Other activities include attending the Engineering Awards Benefit. I will be attending this benefit in February, 2007, representing AAAEA at the head table. It feels good to be part of a large group of fellow engineers and future engineering students celebrating our grand profession. The National Engineers Week celebration is during the last week of February, but planning this coming year’s student outreach efforts starts now.

Also the State Science Fair, will be held at UIUC in Champaign, in May, 2007. You can volunteer to help judge the engineering-related projects for AAAEA’s Special Awards.

Volunteering: Helping Others and Helping Yourself

contributed by Jamal Grainawi, SE, PE

A successful association requires the participation of its individual members and the commitment of its sustaining members, who provide financial, personal and other resources to the association. By working on committees, an individual will achieve a better understanding of the workings of the association while at the same time building professional contacts and networking within the engineering profession. There is a sense of achievement within the individual for having performed a job well done and to be an active contributor to a program which benefits his/her development as a professional. The firm will benefit by having the individual involved with an association that serve the professional interest of the general membership and strive to promote the welfare and continuance of the profession and business for which the firm is engaged. But probably the most important benefit is achieved by AAAEA, however, as the association builds up the energy and enthusiasm that hard working committee people bring. The effect of time and ideas volunteered by those who have more than a passing interest in moving the association forward can not be understated.

I would like to take the opportunity now to ask those members of AAAEA who are either engineering professors, owners or principals in firms, or are in a position to positively influence younger engineers, to encourage them to join AAAEA and volunteer to an AAAEA committee. There are few standing committees that could use the additional help and it is a valuable training ground for their professional development.

Active committee members are often asked if they would be willing to serve on the Board, the next step up in becoming and maintaining an active presence in AAAEA.

As I said before, joining an association is not enough. To be a truly effective association, members must have an active part and feel that they are getting something useful out of their membership. We must make all members feel that they are receiving more than a newsletter or a chance to attend dinner meetings. The association must be there for the members, and at the same time the member must be there for the association. AAAEA depends entirely on the willingness of individuals to work together for the common good. Only you can make this move, but a small step for you can mean a large leap in AAAEA's forward movement. I will be willing to discuss involvement with any person who wishes to contact me and I hope to hear from many of you.

Our committees are looking for contributing members. Consider volunteering to contribute to one of our committees: *Activity, Education, Financial, Membership, Publication, Public Relations, Career Enhancement, National Outreach and Women Engineer*. Consider writing an article for the newsletter. Consider encouraging others to join AAAEA and to complete related surveys such that we can accurately represent your concerns. **The only way we can successfully do this is with your involvement.** Send us an e-mail with your thoughts and ideas.

Online Forum

We've created a new Online Forum to help our members and other engineering communities communicate with one another online. There are five part of the Forum as shown below. The Forum both provides you with a way to keep in touch with your friends, and it serves as an opportunity to share ideas and announcements with other members and engineers. We hope you will find this Forum to be both useful and fun. To sign up, please go to <http://aaaea.org/Forum/>.

AAAEA forum is an area where members and non-members of the association can share ideas, discuss topics, and exchange information under one of the following:

- **Announcements:** Read me first before posting anywhere
- **Events:** Announcements for events may go here.
- **General Discussion:** This forum is for discussion of general topics
- **Career / Employment:** This forum is for career placement and job announcements
- **Executive Board:** This private forum is exclusive to the executive board

Please let us know what you think about it!

Interviewing Advice

contributed by Abder Rahman Ghouleh, PE

Interviewing for any new job can be a stressful experience. But it can also be a valuable learning opportunity. Here are some ideas to put you on the right track.

Before You Start Interviewing

It helps to do some self-discovery before embarking on your job search. Ask yourself some important questions and take the answers to heart. Following your instincts can lead to a more enjoyable career experience, and a better match with your employer.

- What type of work do you enjoy? What don't you like?
- What are the issues that are important to you personally and professionally?
- What criteria are you using to make a decision?
- What differentiates one company from another?
- Why do you want to work with a specific company, and how do you convince your interviewer?

Tips for a Successful Interview

- Be prepared: Research the company you're talking with and be ready to discuss how you could contribute.
- Be punctual: Showing up late is never a good way to start.
- Be professional: Wear business dress, use good manners, and don't chew gum.
- Be positive: Don't disparage your former employer or other job candidates.
- Be confident: Make eye contact with your interviewer and avoid nervous habits.
- Be motivated: Show enthusiasm about what you can bring to the job.
- Be yourself: Your personality is as valuable as your experience; don't be afraid to let it show through.

May 2006 Election Results

Dear Board Members, AAAEA Members and Friends,

I would like to welcome, Mr. Moosa Matariyeh, Mr. Mohammed A. Khattab, Dr. Moussa Issa, Mr. Nabeel Aldrees and Mr. Shaker Asfour to this year's Executive Board.

On behalf of the AAAEA Executive Board, I am announcing the results of the 2006-2007 AAAEA election which took place on May 20th, 2006.

President: Jamal Grainawi
Vice President: Hiba A. Abdalla
Treasurer: Abdul Basraoui
Secretary: Suha Saber
IT Officer: Moosa Matariyeh

Activity Committee: Mohammed A. Khattab
Education Committee: Moussa Issa
Membership Committee: Nabeel Aldrees
Publication Committee: Ibrahim Shillo
Financial Committee: Shaker Asfour

Please join me to warmly congratulate the above individuals on their new role within AAAEA!

At the same time, please also join me to thank and extend our appreciation for the existing board for a job well done for the past two years. They have done a tremendous job. I also extend my thanks to all the volunteers including the Nomination Committee (Ahmad Basrawi, Bilal Almasri, Dr. Ahmad Hammad and John Dasoqi) for their contributions and dedications to AAAEA success. Let's work together to make AAAEA a better association.

Ibrahim Shillo, Publications Committee

News From Michigan

The AAEA is getting larger and more well-known in the state of Michigan. They hold meetings every month. President Sermed Saif was interviewed for MBN America TV last month. To watch interview, see their website: www.aaeausa.com.

First AAEA (Michigan) Family Picnic

On August 20, 2006, the AAEA held their first family picnic, which was a great success. Thanks to the efforts of the picnic committee (Eissa Haj-Hamad, Maria Sedki and Awni Qaqish), it was an excellent outing. About 50 adults and 30 kids enjoyed the great weather, games and delicious food. Here is the link to some photos that captured the day: www.aaeausa.com/aaeapicnic/



News From Wisconsin

The WAAEA is experiencing growth and is steadily picking up new members. The steering committee meets once a month. They are preparing for their first election in December 2006.

Wisconsin Engineer's First Annual Family Picnic

On 8/19/2006, the WAAEA held their first family picnic in Milwaukee. It was a great success. Attendance was estimated at 120 persons (adults and children). WAAEA Chairman Abder R. Ghoulah and family had the opportunity to attend and enjoyed the afternoon with our Wisconsin colleagues. Check out the website for more photos & news. www.waaea.org



News From Texas

Registered in the State of Texas in January 2006. **Arab American Engineers & Architects Association, AAEEA-TX** is open to all engineers, architects and computer science professionals and students of the Arab heritage residing in USA. The AAEEA is headquartered in the City of Houston and serves the entire state of Texas, and had successfully conducted its first election **on March 18, 2006**. Approximately thirty (30) members attended the election meeting. They have *also secured the services of an accountant and a Legal Advisor to review their corporate account.*

AAEEA Texas Events

BBQ; April 30, 2006

And as testimony to our commitment to the membership body, the AAEEA-TX chapter hosted its first BBQ picnic @ the Arab Community Center (ACC), celebrating the launch of the Association. The picnic was well attended; about 45 adults and children joined in an afternoon of food, drinks, social and professional networking.

Seminar #1 June 7, 2006 @ University of Houston

Mr. Hakim Bouadi, PH.D., P.E., presented a seminar to AAEEA-TX about the design of new buildings and in evaluation and retrofit of existing building and forensic work.

Seminar #2 August 1, 2006 @ University of Houston

Mr. John Truitt, Manager of Business Development at Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) presented a seminar to AAEEA members about small business, evaluating proposals for professional services solicitations, monitors small business compliance on contracts and other related topics.



Outreach to Indiana

On Saturday, September 9, National Outreach Committee members Bilal Almasri, Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz and Abder R. Ghoulleh went to Indianapolis, Indiana, and met with engineers interested in forming an Arab Engineering Association. They gave the "Chicago Experience" presentation, discussed our organization, and had a very good discussion session. Thanks to our guys for traveling 8 hours (through construction traffic!) round-trip to meet with this prospective group. They included 4 engineers from Indianapolis, 2 engineers from Terre Haute, and 2 engineering students from Purdue U in attendance. They decided to hold another meeting to possibly form a steering committee.

2006 Summer Picnics



June 18th, 2006 Picnic



June 18th, 2006 Picnic



June 18th, 2006 Picnic



June 18th, 2006 Picnic



July 23rd, 2006 Picnic



July 23rd, 2006 Picnic



July 23rd, 2006 Picnic



July 23rd, 2006 Picnic

2006 Summer Picnics



August 20th, 2006 Picnic



August 20th, 2006 Picnic



August 20th, 2006 Picnic



August 20th, 2006 Picnic



September 17th, 2006 Picnic



September 17th, 2006 Picnic



September 17th, 2006 Picnic



September 17th, 2006 Picnic

Education Committee

July DINNER MEETING

AAEA, ASCE ILLINOIS SECTION - STRUCTURAL GROUP, JOINT DINNER MEETING

MOVABLE BRIDGES - DESIGN AND INSPECTION

Jamal Grainawi, S.E., P.E.

Assistant Vice President

Movable Bridges Specialty Group Manager

IL/MI Structural Department Manager

Parsons Brinckerhoff

This presentation gave an introduction to movable bridge design and inspection. A brief overview of movable bridge type was given, followed by an introduction to the fundamental of bascule bridge design and inspection. The presentation covered the following:

- Type of Movable Bridges
- Type of Bascule Bridges
- Unique Features of Bascule Bridges
- Structural Design of Bascule Bridges
- Pier Protection Cell & Fender System
- Inspection of Bascule Bridges



August DINNER MEETING

AAEA, ASCE ILLINOIS SECTION - GEOTECHNICAL GROUP & ASCE ILLINOIS SECTION - STRUCTURAL GROUP JOINT DINNER MEETING

DIFFERENTIAL SETTLEMENT INDUCED INSTABILITY AND STABILIZATION OF LEANING STRUCTURES: THE EXAMPLE OF THE TOWER OF PISA

Mihail E. Popescu, Ph.D., P.E., Eurling

Wang Engineering Inc.

Settlement of structures is a routine consideration of civil engineers in the design process. As soil conditions usually vary within a given site and load distribution vary within a given structure, uniform settlement of the structure is rare and differential settlement is in most cases a cause of severe structural damage. Preventing and mitigating differential settlements has presented major challenges to the civil engineering profession through the ages.



AAAEA Sponsored Events

The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy is probably the most well known example illustrating the effect of differential settlement on structures. The Tower has presented a fascinating story since the Year of 1173 and a different set of challenges to engineers for centuries. In 1990 the Italian Government appointed an International Committee to safeguard and stabilize the Tower. Studies carried out by physical modeling at natural gravity and in the centrifuge, by numerical modeling and large scale experiments, lead to the conclusion that the tower was very nearly in a state of neutral equilibrium- a transition stage to overturning.

This presentation described some fundamental aspects of structural settlement and uses the Tower's history, causes of settlement, various remedial attempts, and the final stabilization solution to illustrate the complexity of the settlement issue and engineering ingenuity required.

September DINNER MEETING – cancelled due to Ramadan. Will be part of the Technical Conference.

FUNDAMENTALS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS: INTELLIGENT NETWORK (IN) INTRODUCTION AND EVOLUTION OF PLATFORMS AND APPLICATIONS

*By Ali A. Fahs, Ph.D.
Lucent Technologies – Technical Manager
(630) 713-5069 Work/Fax
aafahs@lucent.com*

This seminar will discuss the introduction of Intelligent Network and its evolution in North American markets. This tutorial provides an overview of the network evolution from the traditional switched based service logic to the service-independent Intelligent Network features and service creation environment.

The increased demands of IN services/applications covers both wire-line and wireless subscribers/markets, this includes the traditional 800 number services, Local Number Portability, Privacy Manager, Text Messaging, My Ring Back tones, Prepaid (SurePay), and many other services.

High-level overview of network architectures used by many service providers, and technical description of the main platforms and software applications will be discussed for tutorial purposes.

Dr. Ali A. Fahs joined Bell Labs - Lucent Technologies in 1987. Started as Switching System Engineering, Customer Relations, Project management, Lab & Field Integration testing, International assignment, and currently a Technical Manager for Application Solution Remote Technical Support.

From 1985-1987, Dr. Fahs was Assistant Professor at Memphis State University; lead the establishment of the Electrical & Computer Engineering graduate program.

Prior to that, Dr. Fahs was Assistant Professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, Electrical Engineering Dept., where he completed his Masters and PhD degrees. Dr. Fahs had a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from the Lebanese University at Beirut.

October DINNER MEETING ARAB AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS (AAAEA) DINNER MEETING

RISK ALLOCATION IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: A STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF CURRENT RISK ALLOCATION METHODS ON THE CONTRACTOR'S BID PRICE

*By Bashar Haddad, Ph.D.
Faculty MCT Department
College of Technology
Indiana State University*

Exculpatory clauses are often used in construction contracts to shift potential risks of construction from one party to another. Traditionally, it is the owner who seeks to shift a particular construction risk to the other parties (designer or contractor). Exculpatory clauses are often found in the instructions to bidders and in the terms and conditions which form the agreement between the owner and contractor. Hartman (1998) suggests that Canadian contractors

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use a risk premium between 9% and 19% as part of their contingency plan to alleviate the risks associated with accepting exculpatory clauses. The presentation will highlight the results of a research study conducted on U.S. contractors to identify and quantify the risk premiums they use to mitigate the risk associated with accepting five exculpatory

clauses. These clauses allocate risk for: design errors, differing site conditions, construction errors, risks of payments, no damage for delays. The study also examined the correlation among the contractor's years of experience, company size and percent of self completed work and the contractor's risk premium for each identified risk.

AAAEA: Ten Years Later continued from page 2

There are two other areas that we need to pursue and nurture further. The Business Owners group could be nudged and encouraged to develop into an autonomous division with its own elected chairman and AAAEA V.P. as its liaison. Considering the increasing number of student members, we can begin exploring the establishment of campus chapters. Part of the student membership fees can be diverted to this effort. AAAEA V.P. may be designated to lead the effort with members of the Advisory Board drafted to serve as campus mentors/counselors.

Our organization has been on a gradually ascending curve and from all indications we can look forward for many more years of continuity. The seeds that were

sown in Chicago have grown, flowered and matured and the pollen has traveled to other locations. Saplings have begun to grow in Milwaukee, Detroit and Houston with signs of growth in Ohio. Where do we want to be in 2025 and how do we get there? Time may have come to begin thinking about developing a Strategic Plan in the next two years. All well-established organizations have developed their own plans to meet their own goals and continue to update the plan periodically as a guide for the future. The expertise and systematic methodology necessary to develop such a plan can be learned or developed with the help of others. I like to look for 2008 as a milestone for a preliminary plan tentatively called **HORIZON 2025**.

SEAOI Workshop: Basics of Bridge Design

Ahmad Hammad, PhD, PE, SE, supervising structural engineer with Parsons Brinckerhoff in Chicago, and past president of AAAEA, was the lecturer of the Structural Engineering Association of Illinois (SEAOI) half-day workshop on the Basics of Bridge Design. The workshop emphasis was on the Structural Engineer Exam Part I as it relates to bridge design using AASHTO Standard Specification for Highway Bridges, 17th Edition 2002.

The following topics were covered:

- Loads: dead load, live load, traffic lanes, highway loads, impact, longitudinal, application of live load, load combinations, etc.
- Design and Details of Bridge Structures: reinforced concrete, prestressed concrete, and structural steel.

Also presented were worked-out design examples that illustrate the AASHTO analysis and design provisions.

2005 Technical Conference (Spring)

contributed by Abder Rahman Ghouleh, PE

On Saturday, May 13, 2006, the AAAEA presented a three-seminar technical conference at the IIT Rice Campus in Wheaton, Illinois. The conference was a great success with over 40 engineers and engineering students in attendance. Certificates and PDH credits (and lunch) were available to those attending.

The presentations were:

“Case Studies of Wet Weather Flow Issues”, by **Ms. Hala Baroudi, PE**, of Anderson, Eckstein And Westrick, presented a seminar on Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) and bring an example of what two communities in Southeast Michigan are doing to mitigate their SSO or CSO.

“Bridge Inspections”, by **Dr. Ahmad Hammad, PE, SE**, of Parsons Brinckerhoff, presented a seminar on Bridge Inspection.

“Variable Frequency Drives”, by **Mr. Preston Cobb**, of Borg LLC, presented a seminar on Variable Frequency Drives with examples for use in industrial and municipal applications.

All three Speakers did a wonderful job in their very informative and insightful presentations, which were well received by the attendees. The AAAEA thanks Dr. Hammad, Mr. Cobb, and especially Ms. Baroudi for taking the time to travel in from Michigan. Thanks also to Dr. Omar Aldawud and IIT Rice for help in the arrangements.



AAAEA Past and Present – Executive Board and Board of Trustees

EXECUTIVE BOARD	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
President	Bilal Almasri	Bilal Almasri	Dr. Ahmad Hammad, P.E., S.E.
Vice President	Hasan Al-Gholeh, P.E.	Hasan Al-Gholeh, P.E.	Hanie Miri, P.E.
Treasurer	Nihad Albahrani	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.
Secretary	Amjad Rasul	Hanie Miri, P.E.	Layla Khatib
IT Officer	---	---	Nizam Khatib
Auditor	Shaker Asfour, P.E.	Mahmoud Tayeb	Ihab Darwish, P.E.
Activity Committee	Mohamad Al-Hajje	Mohamad Al-Hajje	Jehad Hasan
Education Committee	Jamal Grainawi, P.E., S.E.	Jamal Grainawi, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, P.E., S.E.
Financial Committee	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.	Wassim Kmeid	Izeddin Awaidah, P.E.
Membership Committee	Dr. Salma Aldairi	Jehad Hasan	Talal Almasri
Publication Committee	---	Hanie Miri, P.E.	Hanie Miri, P.E.
By-Law Committee	---	---	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.
Career Enhancement Committee	---	---	---
Election Committee	Ahmad Basrawi	Ahmad Basrawi	Ahmad Basrawi
National Outreach Committee	---	---	---
Scholarship Committee	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.
BOARD of TRUSTEES	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Chairman	---	---	Bilal Almasri
Members	---	---	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.
Members	---	---	Jamil Bou-Saab, P.E.
Members	---	---	John Dasoqi, P.E., S.E.
Members	---	---	Dr. Sam Elmoursi, P.E.
Members	---	---	Dr. Mohsen Issa, P.E., S.E.
Members	---	---	Antoine Karam, P.E.
Members	---	---	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.
EXECUTIVE BOARD	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
President	Dr. Ahmad Hammad, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, P.E., S.E.
Vice President	Hanie Miri, P.E.	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.
Treasurer	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.	Jamal Grainawi, P.E., S.E.	Jamal Grainawi, P.E., S.E.
Secretary	Layla Khatib	Darlene Attiah	Dr. Hiba Abdalla
IT Officer	Issam Abozir	Hani Mayzouni	Hani Mayzouni / Mohammad Kleit, S.E.
Auditor	Ihab Darwish, P.E.	---	---
Activity Committee	Mohammed Rashed, P.E.	Ranya Atia	Omar Alsharbini
Education Committee	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz	Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz
Financial Committee	Mark Bendok, P.E.	Mark Bendok, P.E.	Darlene Attiah
Membership Committee	Talal Almasri	Talal Almasri	Mohammed Rashed, P.E.
Publication Committee	Dr. Hossam Abdou, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Hossam Abdou, P.E., S.E.	Hanie Miri, P.E.
By-Law Committee	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.
Career Enhancement Committee	---	Dr. Eyad Elqaq, P.E.	Dr. Eyad Elqaq, P.E.
Election Committee	Ahmad Basrawi	Ahmad Basrawi	Ahmad Basrawi
National Outreach Committee	---	---	---
Scholarship Committee	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.
BOARD of TRUSTEES	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Chairman	Bilal Almasri	Dr. Ahmad Hammad, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Ahmad Hammad, P.E., S.E.
Members	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.	Bilal Almasri	Bilal Almasri
Members	Jamil Bou-Saab, P.E.	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.
Members	John Dasoqi, P.E., S.E.	Jamil Bou-Saab, P.E.	Jamil Bou-Saab, P.E.
Members	Dr. Sam Elmoursi, P.E.	John Dasoqi, P.E., S.E.	John Dasoqi, P.E., S.E.
Members	Dr. Mohsen Issa, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Sam Elmoursi, P.E.	Dr. Sam Elmoursi, P.E.
Members	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.	Dr. Mohsen Issa, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Mohsen Issa, P.E., S.E.
Members	---	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.
Members	---	Ahmad Basrawi	Ahmad Basrawi
EXECUTIVE BOARD	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
President	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.	Jamal Grainawi, P.E., S.E.
Vice President	Jamal Grainawi, P.E., S.E.	Jamal Grainawi, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Hiba Abdalla
Treasurer	Abdul Basraoui	Abdul Basraoui	Abdul Basraoui
Secretary	Dr. Hiba Abdalla	M. Mikbel / Dr. Hiba Abdalla	Suha Saber
IT Officer	Mohammad Kleit, S.E.	Mohammad Kleit, S.E.	Moosa Matariyeh
Auditor	---	---	---
Activity Committee	Omar Alsharbini	Omar Alsharbini	Mohammed A. Khattab
Education Committee	Dr. Maher Abu-Mallouh, P.E.	Dr. Maher Abu-Mallouh, P.E.	Dr. Moussa Issa, P.E., S.E.
Financial Committee	Issam Abozir	Izeddin Awaidah, P.E.	Shaker Asfour, P.E.
Membership Committee	Mohammed Rashed	Suha Saber	Nabeel Aldrees, P.E.
Publication Committee	Hanie Miri, P.E.	Ibrahim Shillo	Ibrahim Shillo
By-Law Committee	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.
Career Enhancement Committee	Dr. Eyad Elqaq, P.E.	G.M. Sadat, P.E.	G.M. Sadat, P.E.
Election Committee	Ahmad Basrawi	Ahmad Basrawi	Ahmad Basrawi
National Outreach Committee	---	Dr. Mustafa Mahamid, P.E.	Dr. Mustafa Mahamid, P.E.
Scholarship Committee	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.	Jamil F. Bou-Saab, P.E.
Women Engineers Committee	---	Dr. Hiba Abdalla	Dr. Hiba Abdalla
AAAEA "10-Year Plan" Committee	---	---	John Dasoqi, P.E., S.E.
BOARD of TRUSTEES	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Chairman	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, P.E., S.E.	Abder Rahman Ghouleh, P.E.
Members	Bilal Almasri	Bilal Almasri	Bilal Almasri
Members	Dr. Ahmad Hammad, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Ahmad Hammad, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Ahmad Hammad, P.E., S.E.
Members	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, P.E., S.E.
Members	Ahmad Basrawi	Ahmad Basrawi	Raghad Adeis-Dahhan, P.E., S.E.
Members	Jamil Bou-Saab, P.E.	Jamil Bou-Saab, P.E.	Hasan Al Gholeh, P.E.
Members	John Dasoqi, P.E., S.E.	John Dasoqi, P.E., S.E.	Ahmad Basrawi
Members	Dr. Sam Elmoursi, P.E.	Dr. Sam Elmoursi, P.E.	Jamil Bou-Saab, P.E.
Members	Dr. Mohsen Issa, P.E., S.E.	Dr. Mohsen Issa, P.E., S.E.	John Dasoqi, P.E., S.E.
Members	Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz	Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz	Dr. Sam Elmoursi, P.E.
Members	Suheil Nammari, P.E.	Suheil Nammari, P.E.	Dr. Mohsen Issa, P.E., S.E.
Members	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.	Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz
Members	---	---	Suheil Nammari, P.E.
Members	---	---	Ayoub Talhami, P.E.



AAAEA

2006 SEMI ANNUAL MEETING

AAAEA Celebrating its 10th Anniversary
1996 to 2006

DATE

Friday, November 10th, 2006

TIME & AGENDA

5:30 pm Reception – 9:00 pm Closing Remarks

The program includes the following:

- Scholarship Awards
- Recognition of Executive Board members since inception of AAAEA
- Sister Association updates
- Dinner/AAAEA: 10 years in pictures
- The Visual History of AAAEA/Chicago Experience: a power point presentation
- Honoree
- Keynote Presentation: The First Ten Years and beyond
- Association Business Meeting

LOCATION

Drury Lane Oak Brook

Grand Ballroom • 100 Drury Lane • Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181

Tel: (630) 530-8300

COST

\$30 (Members) • \$40 (Non members) • \$300 (Table of Ten)

RESERVATIONS

Call – (312) 409-8560

E-mail – aaaea@aaaea.org

Mail – P. O. Box 1536 • Chicago, IL 60690-1536

Reserve No Later than Friday, November 3, 2006 • Tickets will not be available at the door

SE review courses will be conducted during spring 07. Our programs also include ACT and tutoring classes for high school students. Please see the education committee report on past and future seminars.

Membership Committee: Increasing membership is a goal every volunteer organization hopes to achieve, but simply getting more people to join is not enough. I do hope that we will be able to reach the more than 500 engineers, architects, computer science professionals and students in Illinois that are not currently members as well as those individuals who have an interest in AAAEA. In the past we have gained and lost members for various reasons, but during the coming year we would like to bring all those previous members back.

National Outreach Committee (NOC): Our association has been contacting and encouraging other Arab American engineers & architects in other states to form and establish sister association similar to ours. Michigan, Texas and Wisconsin have established associations. We are working with Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio and Washington too. You can help the NOC by spreading the word to others and by providing us with contacts in these states and other states cross the USA.

Public Relation: Our association has been very active with other engineering organization. AAAEA members are well represented in IEC, Dr. Soliman Khudeira, VP of IEC; Moosa M. Matariyeh, SECRETARY of IEC and Mr. Hanie Miri, Past IEC President (2005).

Scholarship: In order to encourage more undergraduates and/ or post-graduates students to pursue the engineering profession and to become active participants in our Association, we have increased the amount to \$2000. AAAEA offer scholarships to deserving undergraduates and graduate college students, and we need your help to publicize the scholarship.

On behalf of the new executive board, I would like to thank the outgoing board officers (Past President Mr. Abder Rahman Ghouleh, Mohammad Kleit), and committee chairpersons (Dr. Maher Abu Mallouh, Mr. Omar Alsharbini, and Mr. Izeddin Awaidah) for their services to AAAEA. I also would like to thank the past chairman of the board Dr. Soliman Khudeira for his guidance and foresight.

Many thank to all individuals who have served AAAEA in any role during the past eight years, and a special

thanks to our first president, Bilal Masri, who with wit and wisdom always keep us moving forward, bring life to our activities and encouraged many members to "get involved". The success of our association partially depends on the continued involvement of all members and specially current & previous board members. I look forward to their continue participation and involvement in this association as we strive to achieve great things in 2006-07.

We faced some challenges since the inception. Some of these challenges include:

- Maintain and increase the membership. This is a challenge that almost all organizations face. Your active participation is truly needed in this area. We request from ALL to renew their membership, remind others to renew, and contact prospective members.
- Relatively low attendance of some of our activities: by participating in our events you help support and encourage future activities.
- Scholarship: To date we have three applicants for the 2006 scholarships. AAAEA is one of few, and possibly the only, professional association that have a scholarship program.
- Volunteers & Sponsors: I wanted to reach out to those individuals who are not as active on the standing and ad hoc committees that form the back bone of AAAEA in order to bring in some new blood and energy. By working on committees, an individual will achieve a better understanding of the workings of the association while at the same time building professional contacts networking within the engineering profession. (See my article on volunteering). I am also personally grateful to all individuals and firms that supported AAAEA during the past 10 years.

The new board is committed to continue all the programs that were established by the previous boards. I am also committed to serve the membership. I am prepared to accept your input and to set priority of near and long term goals in the coming months. Please remember you don't just belong to the Association; the Association belongs to you. You can help to make the Association grow through your strong participation. We encourage all members to send their recommendations for improvement. Please address correspondence to me via the Association address or e-mail me at jgrainawi@aaaea.org.

Announcements and News

Congratulations to Anas Alkhatib for passing his PE

Congratulations to Ahmad Boorenie on his new position

Congratulations to Dr. Wessam Daoud on his new position

Congratulations to Khairi Shadeed and family on the birth of their new baby boy Ali

Our condolences to Hiba Abdalla for the loss of her cousin

Our condolences to Suheil and Adnan Nammari for the loss of their mother

Our condolences to Mohammad Kleit and family for the loss of their father

Congratulations to Moin Shaik's son for graduation from medical school

Congratulations to Mustafa Awwad on his wedding

Congratulations to Raed Najjar on his wedding

Congratulations to Hiba Abdalla for passing the EIT exam

Congratulations to Mohammed Khattab for passing the EIT exam

Congratulations to Dr. Maher Abu-Mallouh on his new position

Congratulations to Mohammed Khattab on his new position

Congratulations to Raghad Adeis-Dahhan on her new position

Our condolences to Dr. Shafic Budron and family on the loss of his sister

Our condolences to Suha Saber and family on the loss of her grandfather

If you have an announcement on any member, please email it to us at aaaaa@aaaaa.org

Assalamu Alaikom. I would like to thank all of you for your great efforts. Indeed our students benefited a lot from your tutoring program. May Allah reward you all.

Mrs. Hamayel • Universal School

Welcome New AAAEA Members

Mahmoud Hamide (Louisiana)

Abdul Ghani Ziny (Peoria, IL)

Rami Jibreel

Samuel Dannaway (Hawaii)

Talal Hasa

Reem Jaghlit

Ahmad Yousef (Puerto Rico)

Achraf Rouidi

Mohammed Reda Aithammouda

Rami Y. Rizk (Ohio)

Pinit Wichaimethawee

Elie Abou-Hamad

Mohamed El-Attar (Texas)

Nazeer Ahmed

Mohammed Nator



Executive Board and Board of Trustees

Executive Board

President:

Jamal Grainawi, SE, PE
(847) 705-6376

Vice President:

Dr. Hiba Abdalla
(312) 328-9915

Treasurer:

Abdul Basraoui
(847) 994-5764

Secretary:

Suha Saber
(708) 925-6298

IT Officer:

Moosa Matariyeh
(773) 418-1841

Activity Committee:

Mohammed A. Khattab
(224) 578-0155

Education Committee:

Dr. Moussa A. Issa, SE, PE
(708) 236-0900

Financial Committee:

Shaker Asfour, PE
(847) 846-7158

Membership Committee:

Nabeel Aldrees, PE
(815) 252-2799

Publication Committee:

Ibrahim Shillo
(773) 585-2657

Ad-Hoc Committees:

Career Enhancement

GM Sadat, PE
(847) 981-0801

National Outreach

Dr. Mustafa Mahamid, PE
(312) 582-2031

Women Engineers

Dr. Hiba Abdalla
(312) 328-9915

Board of Trustees

Chairman:

Abder Rahman Ghouleh, PE

Past Presidents:

Bilal Almasri

Dr. Ahmad Hammad, SE, PE

Dr. Soliman Khudeira, SE, PE

Members:

Raghad Adeis-Dahhan, SE, PE

Hasan Al Gholeh, PE

Ahmad Basrawi

Jamil Bou-Saab, PE

John Dasoqi, SE, PE

Dr. Sam Elmoursi, PE

Dr. Mohsen Issa, SE, PE

Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz

Suheil Nammari, PE

Ayoub Talhami, PE