



Waterways

Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers

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Summer 2008

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Recent Weather Events Lend to Infrastructure Focus



In this column in the Spring 2008 newsletter, I mentioned that recent rains and the melt from heavy snow were causing serious flooding on some rivers in the Midwest. Well, as you know, this situation has gotten much worse in my home state of Iowa. From deadly tornadoes in the western part of the state to record breaking flood levels in

the central and eastern parts, extreme weather events here and abroad are getting everyone's attention. The COPRI Governing Board joins the ASCE leadership in offering our sympathies to the victims of these natural disasters and in encouraging our members to contribute to relief efforts of the American Red Cross, which has a partnership with ASCE. ASCE will match all member contributions for Midwest Flood Relief dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000; see www.asce.org for more details.

A recent assessment by the U.S. Climate Change Program warns that extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent as a result of global climate change. COPRI takes these warnings seriously and is committed to improving the knowledge, education, development, and practice of civil

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ASCE Weighs in on Revision of Water Resources Guidelines

In our recently initiated Q&A Column, intended to allow leaders to share their knowledge and expertise of projects and issues that relate to hot topics in the COPRI community, this month we turn our focus to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Principles and Guidelines. Our interviewee is Brian Pallasch of the ASCE Government Relations Office. As Managing Director of Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives, Pallasch leads ASCE's lobbying efforts and manages the Washington, D.C. Office. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California and the American University.

WATERWAYS: In the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Congress directed the Secretary of the Army to revise the "Principles and Guidelines" (P&G). Why is this important to COPRI members?

BRIAN PALLASCH: The *Economic and Environmental Principles for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies*, commonly known as the P&G, is the government's principal planning document for water resource projects and lays out the factors the government must consider when calculating the benefits and costs of water resource projects. Previously established by the U.S. Water Resources Council in March 1983, these guidelines are now 25 years old. Section 2031 in WRDA 2007 give officials until November 8, 2009, to complete the revisions.

WW: What are the current problems with the P&G?

BP: The current guidelines are primarily focused on national economic development. They are only incidentally focused on avoiding harm to the environment and don't emphasize the importance of public safety. With a goal of "increasing the net

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Stories are Stronghold at Gala Dinner

The third annual Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) Hall of Fame Gala Dinner sponsored by the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute of ASCE brought a record-breaking class of inductees and the largest number of international guests yet to the Houston Petroleum Club for an evening celebration May 6.

Thirteen of 18 winners were present to receive their wave-shaped plaques from ASCE President-Elect Wayne Klotz, D.WRE, F.ASCE. In his remarks to the winners, Klotz noted that they have provided vision, innovation and value to the profession. He applauded this year's winners who traveled from the Netherlands and Monaco to receive their awards. Mark Randolph, a professor at the University of Western Australia, traveled to Houston to accept the award for Peter Wroth, deceased. That award will be sent to England where it will reside at the Peter Wroth Library at Oxford University.

James Dailey, who has served as the event emcee since its inception in 2006, said his favorite memory of the event will be having attendees and winners thank him for a job well-done. The evening is important, Dailey says, because it is a fundamental truth, however, that OTC would not exist without the Technical Program.

"In turn, the Technical Program would not exist without the technical papers," he said. "It takes a lot of time and trouble to write a good OTC paper, far beyond any pecuniary reward that might accrue. The Hall of Fame Gala is one of the few, if any, events I know where the system goes to the effort to recognize in a formal, first-class way, the contributions of those authors in a setting amongst family and friends. One gets the sense that they see it as a once-in-a-lifetime honor."

Dailey said story-telling has been an important part of the evening

"All of us belong to multiple, overlapping families: our home family, our work family, and yes, even our ASCE family," he said. "Sociologists tell us that stories are the cultural vehicle through which families transmit their values, their customs, and their traditions. Those stories make us feel good about ourselves and comfortable with our place in life. They humanize us."

This year, Dailey said, one of his favorite moments was when Alan Young, a 2007 winner accepting this year's prize on



Emcee James Dailey, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, introduces the 2008 Hall of Fame honorees during the Gala.

behalf of Bram McClelland, unfurled a larger-than-life picture of his new granddaughter. "One has to understand that Alan is the father of four boys, and his biological clock is ticking," Dailey said. "I think she may be the first grandchild."

"The champagne story thus far was told at last year's event by Don Murff, who is bald and relishes the associated jokes," Dailey said. "Don was away from the office for an extended period, and he took the opportunity to grow a full beard. When he returned, he poked his head through the office door of his boss. The man looked up, startled, and blurted: 'Oh-my-gosh, I thought your head was on upside down!'"

COPRI extends gratitude to Jim Dailey for his services as event emcee and to Dan Smith who has chaired the event planning committee for the past two years. They have provided invaluable support to the COPRI staff, honorees and offshore technology community. The Institute also would like to thank the organizations that helped make this year's gala a success. The 2008 silver sponsors are BP, Chevron, Geoscience Earth and Marine Services, J. Ray McDermott and Technip. Bronze sponsors include ExxonMobil Development Corporation, Houston Offshore Engineering, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute and Shell Exploration and Production. For information about 2009 sponsorship opportunities, contact COPRI Coordinator Jennifer Moulton at jmoulton@asce.org. ■



Gala Chair Dan Smith welcomes the winners at the May 6 event. Smith, P.E., M.ASCE, also oversees the committee which contributes to the OTC technical program.



President-Elect Klotz (second from right) gathers for a picture with the 2008 Hall of Fame inductees (from Left): George Remery, Paul Aagard, Chuck Petrauskas, Aff. M.ASCE, Robert Kirby, P.E., F.ASCE, Nick Zettlemoyer, P.E., M.ASCE, Paul Wirsching, Ph.D, P.E., M.ASCE, Joseph Yura, M.ASCE, Earl Doyle, P.E., F.ASCE, Ian Edwards, Vince Cardone, George Ferguson, F.ASCE, E.G. "Skip" Ward, and Jo Pinkster.

Interview: Brian Pallasch continued from page 1

value of the national output of goods and service, expressed in monetary units", the emphasis places benefit-cost analysis at the center of the planning process. It places relatively less emphasis on the non-economic needs of society and does a poor job of establishing which projects may damage the environment.

WW: What factors does the Congress expect the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to consider in revising the P&G?

BP: In enacting Section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act, Congress set the USACE on a different path by placing greater emphasis on non-economic factors in the planning of water resources projects, including the environment, social effects of planning and public safety. Specifically—

- The assessment and incorporation of public safety in the formulation of alternatives and recommended plans.
- Assessment methods that reflect the value of projects for low-income communities and projects that use nonstructural approaches to water resources development and management.
- The assessment and evaluation of the interaction of a project with other water resources projects and programs within a region or watershed.
- The use of contemporary water resources paradigms, including integrated water resources management and adaptive management—methods that ensure projects are justified by public benefits.

WW: In what other ways would ASCE like to see the P&G revised?

BP: ASCE would like to see the new P&G incorporate risk management, uncertainty analysis and discussion of public safety. It also should evaluate economic development on a

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<http://www.coprinstitute.org/news/newsarchives.cfm>.

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Moving From Destruction to Sustainability

In April, more than 230 coastal engineers, geologists, managers, planners, oceanographers and other coastal professionals ventured to the north shore of Oahu for the third Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference, traveling from as far as Europe, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Australia and Vietnam. Guided by the knowledge that coastal areas worldwide are experiencing increasing population and development pressures and thus have critical coastal management needs, conference plenary sessions addressed community resilience, sea level rise, lessons from the Indian Ocean tsunami and coastal science applications within hazard mitigation programs. Technical sessions addressed all aspects of disaster management with a special emphasis on tsunamis.



Throughout the discussions participants and authors noted the importance of hazard warning systems and better predictive tools to help coastal populations survive coastal disasters—warnings for tsunamis, observations of rising sea level, predictions of tsunami run-up, levee breaching, storm or cyclone intensities and landfall sites. Discussions also covered ways to move scientific information from the research stage to use in coastal management and into community awareness and education.

Sea level rise and climate change also took center stage. Technical program planning committee members noted that



A cove observed during the Turtle Bay Walking Tour

coastal managers are still trying to come to grips with how to incorporate some acceleration of sea level rise into land use planning and community resilience. At the same time,

scientists are trying to assess coastal vulnerabilities to erosion and storm damage in light of current and future trends in sea levels.

Conference goers had the chance to hear about Maui County, Hawaii's 2003 implementation of erosion-based setbacks. Now, the county is developing a shoreline prioritization and management model using scientifically derived data layers which assess vulnerability to such coastal hazards as erosion, waves and rising sea level. Then, combining this with the social and cultural values of the shoreline, it can tailor management options to the unique shoreline characteristics.

Thanks to committee member Bruce Jaffe's outreach, this year's conference featured more than two days of sessions on

tsunamis and also incorporated historic tsunami data into one of the field trips. The discussions spanned at least five decades of work – from early recordings of water levels, paleo-deposits, and field investigations to the latest numerical models and concepts in tsunami resilient communities. Vigorous discussion was generated by Japan's Port and Airport Research Institute Tsunami Research Center study in which people were exposed to increasingly strong currents and rising water levels to determine the conditions that would cause them to lose their footing and be at risk from drowning.



Statue on the conference site grounds

Even the history of the conference venue, The Turtle Bay Resort, contributed to the tsunami discussion. Providing details of research by Professor Bob Wiegell of the University of California, Professor Billy Edge, Texas A&M University, noted that the original building has three wings of concrete block bearing wall construction above the main lobby, lateral load resisting reinforced concrete frames down to grade and break-away walls along all the lower level.

COPRI is especially grateful to the speakers, local organizing committee and technical committee for providing the exciting conference program. Conference plenary speakers included: Westley Chun, ASCE Region 8 Chair; Margaret Davidson, Director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center; Chip Fletcher, Chair of the University of Hawaii, Manoa, Department of Geology and Geophysics; Costas Synolakis, University of Southern California Tsunami Research Lab; and, Dennis Hwang, an affiliate faculty member of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program and an attorney at Reinwald, O'Connor & Playdon.

Thanks also go to the volunteers, exhibitors and sponsors: Moffatt & Nichol, Tetra Tech, Oceanit, Tensar, FYFE, Dewberry, Zephyr Insurance, URS, NOAA, USGS, FEMA, State of Hawaii Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, and University of Southern California Sea Grant. Proceedings are now available at <http://pubs.asce.org/books>.



A tsunami siren

While 2011 may seem far off, it's not too early for planning technical papers or volunteering with the next Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference. ■

Committees Review and Re-Energize

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SURGES INTO ACTION FOLLOWING COASTAL DISASTERS CONFERENCE:

A May 29 conference call organized by Chair Heather Schlosser energized committee members with an opportunity to talk about future events. Activities currently under consideration by the committee include a seminar on climate change with a possible focus on long-term coastal management; a sand rights conference examining the way states handle the issue; a workshop on shoreline stabilization; and, an international conference looking at the connection between the upper watershed and coast. Also underway is an effort to consider shelter shoreline erosion issues and the interaction between shoreline and wetland restoration efforts.

The committee's next conference call will be July 29 at 11:00 a.m. PDT (2:00 EDT). To learn more about the committee or for assistance joining the next conference call, contact Schlosser at Heather.R.Schlosser@usace.army.mil.

ENGINEER DIVER TASK COMMITTEE PLANS FOR THIRD BALLOT:

The Engineer Diver Task Committee continues to make progress on its proposed engineer diver standard. The goal of the standard is to establish minimum levels for training and certification of divers who conduct underwater investigations as defined by ASCE SPM 101, *Underwater Investigations: Standard Practice Manual*.

According to the task committee, the goal is to build upon the practice manual produced by the Ports and Harbors Committee in 2001. Goals include addressing the diving investigation of offshore structures and nuclear facilities. Previously, the task

committee says, specific guidelines for diver training and safety issues were not addressed. The committee also notes that the current lack of "restricted" diver training programs in the United States results in an inadequate pool of qualified engineer-divers, which increases the probability of underwater investigations being completed by diving inspectors who are not technically qualified to evaluate engineering structures.

The committee recently completed a second ballot on the standard which passed with one editorial comment. Committee Chair Bryan Jones expects to have the third ballot open for comment by early summer. Results of that ballot will likely be discussed at a task committee meeting prior to the next Ports and Harbors Committee meeting in the fall of 2008.

OCEANS AND OFFSHORE ENGINEERING

COMMITTEE GATHERS ENERGY: Chaired by Pat Hudson, the OOE committee has announced plans for a strategic planning workshop in 2008, a desire to focus on renewable ocean energy in 2009 and efforts to offer a Waves 2011 conference.

While the committee welcomed three new members at its May meeting (Jason Glover, Oceaneering International; Sam Sangsoo Ryu, SOFEC, Inc.; and Donghwan Lee, Technip USA), Hudson said the committee has a critical need for new members. "Many of our current members are past chairs- we need new ideas, opinions and perspectives to invigorate our discussion," he said.

To initiate a focus on renewable energy, Hudson plans to form a working group. He anticipates hosting a symposium on the issue in 2009, followed by a small conference in 2010. The committee hopes to have another planning meeting in conjunction with a strategic planning workshop in October 2008.

Please visit the HTML version of the newsletter online at www.coprinstitute.org/archives for additional committee updates.

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PORTS 2010: Building on the Past—Respecting the Future

By Steve Dickenson, Ph.D., M.ASCE

The Ports and Harbors Committee is very pleased to announce that Ports 2010 is scheduled for April 25-28, 2010, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Ports 2010, the 12th in COPRI's successful series devoted to port and harbor engineering, continues ASCE's partnership with the U.S. Section of PIANC in the development of the premier ports engineering conference in the world. The conference will focus on current projects, practical issues, innovative engineering and construction, and state-of-the-art developments for port engineering.

Developed for professionals involved in port design, development, management, or construction, the conference has traditionally drawn nearly 1,000 participants. The 2010 conference will feature short courses, 36 technical sessions, keynote addresses, and social activities planned to facilitate ample professional interaction in an informal atmosphere. Conference topics will include:

- Engineering related to land or water port access;
- Planning, design, rehabilitation, inspection or repair of marine terminals;
- Environmental planning;
- Transportation planning;
- Security considerations; and,

- Monitoring and performance assessment of port facilities during daily operations and extreme events.

The technical program is enhanced by cooperation with the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT), a conference sponsor, which will offer technical tours of its facilities. Ports 2010 also will feature expanded programs for young professionals and students. A student paper competition is being planned with details to accompany the call for abstracts later this year.

Ports 2010 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Waterfront, located along the St. John's River in downtown Jacksonville. In addition to Jacksonville's diverse cultural and recreational activities, coastal attractions and historic St. Augustine are within 45 miles of downtown. The Cape Canaveral-Orlando region, home to the Kennedy Space Center and world-famous theme parks, is roughly 150 miles from Jacksonville.

The call for abstracts will be made in Fall 2008, with abstracts due in January 2009. Many aspects of the conference program, sponsorship opportunities, exhibits, as well as information on the Jacksonville region will be available soon. Right now, click here to view the conference flyer. For additional information on the conference program, please feel free to contact the Conference Organizing Committee Chairman Dr. Stephen Dickenson at stephen.dickenson@oregonstate.edu.

We hope to see you in Jacksonville, Florida. Mark your calendars for April 25-28, 2010. ■

ICCE 2008 Meeting Coastal Challenges

By Ing. Holger Schüttrumpf

The 31st International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICCE 2008), scheduled for Aug. 31 to Sept. 5, will begin at the Hamburg Congress Centre with two short courses: one on the new European Overtopping Manual and another on morphodynamic processes and modelling.

The first incorporates new techniques to predict wave overtopping at seawalls, flood embankments, breakwaters and other shoreline structures facing waves. Supported by web-based programmes for the calculation of overtopping discharge and design details, the manual's appendices give photographic and video visualisations of overtopping processes, graphical presentations, case studies, and example calculations. The second short course, "Morphodynamic processes and modelling", is organised as a workshop with international

experts on this topic. Presentations are related to numerical modelling of sediment transport, field measurements, small and large scale morphological processes and the effect of coastal structures.

More than 750 delegates are expected to attend this conference and to attend more than 450 presentations in five parallel sessions. New developments, methods and approaches as well as interesting case studies will be presented from coastal experts from more than 45 different countries. The conference covers all topics of coastal engineering:

- coastal processes;
- coastal, shore and estuarine structures;
- ports, harbours and waterways;
- coastal environment;
- coastal risks; and,
- coastal development.

More information, online registration and all conference abstracts are available on the conference website: <http://icce2008.hamburg.baw.de>. You can also e-mail Schüttrumpf at icce2008@hamburg.baw.de. ■

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engineering and other disciplines in addressing the challenges facing coastal and riverine communities. In this regard, I want to commend Louise Wallendorf and her committee for organizing the successful Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference in April in Hawaii (see related article for more details).

As the conference illustrated, solutions to coastal disasters involve research, assessment, planning, and, especially, communication. Following the conference, the planning committee launched a Coastal Disasters News Page on the COPRI website to provide a forum for communication and collaboration among attendees. On the page, you will find information from the recent conference, news about the aftermath of the Myanmar Cyclone and other updates from your colleagues. I hope you will visit the Coastal Disasters News Page and contribute to this vibrant COPRI community.

Following Hurricane Katrina and the Asian Tsunami, COPRI dispatched teams of engineers to assess the damage caused by these events so coastal professionals could benefit from the lessons learned. The COPRI Governing Board sought to send a similar team to Myanmar following Cyclone Nargis, which struck that country on May 2, 2008. Unfortunately, the military government there has refused to allow many outsiders into the country, and even fewer into the hardest hit areas of the Irrawaddy Delta. COPRI member and Yokohama National University Professor Tomoya Shibayama informed the COPRI Governing Board that he led a team from the Japanese Society of Civil Engineers to Yangon and was able to assess the storm surge on the Yangon River as being between 3 to 4 meters. We appreciate Professor Shibayama for keeping us informed of his efforts.

The numerous levee failures resulting from this year's Midwest flooding remind us that the nation's infrastructure is in serious need of reinvestment. ASCE's Infrastructure Report Card has been prominent in the nation's burgeoning discussion of infrastructure, as have ASCE leaders. ASCE President David Mongan and Executive Director Pat Natale have made the case for increased investment in the nation's infrastructure on a variety of television and radio shows. In anticipation of a new Administration and Congress taking the reigns of government next year, ASCE is updating its Infrastructure Report Card. I want to thank COPRI Policy Committee Chair Charlie Calhoun for participating on ASCE's Infrastructure Advisory Council, which is overseeing the Report update.

Like with Louise Wallendorf, Professor Shibayama and Charlie Calhoun, it is the creativity, dedication and energy of COPRI members that makes the Institute a success. In closing this column, I want to request that each member take one action to advance the mission of COPRI. As I mentioned above, you could make a contribution to the Red Cross Midwest Flood Relief, which will be match by ASCE; you can

Interview: Brian Pallasch *continued from page 3*

life-cycle basis and adopt a watershed approach, making integrated water resource plans and regional sediment management plans a prerequisite to any project authorization.

ASCE also wants to emphasize the importance of the guidelines' social effects. The experience of the Gulf Coast highlights that the national economic development objective does not take into serious consideration the protection of low income households.

WW: Why is it so important for the revised P&G to incorporate the concepts of risk management?

BP: With effective risk assessment, comparative risk analysis, and risk management can help us respond to the challenge of allocating limited resources while maximizing protection of human safety, health and welfare and protecting the environment.

ASCE calls for:

- core risk assessment research programs to ensure risk management is based on adequate scientific data and appropriate processes;
- efforts that encourage and facilitate public participation in formulating risk assessment guidelines;
- clear communication to the public about risk assessments and comparative risk analyses associated with water resources projects; and,
- a collaborative process to decide how much risk is acceptable to the local communities in developing infrastructure for protection from natural hazards.

WW: How can COPRI members stay informed of, and participate in, the revision of the P&G?

BP: To stay informed, visit the ASCE government relations website at <http://www.asce.org/pressroom/news/grwk/index.cfm>, or e-mail the government relations staff at gowash@asce.org. Public comments which have been submitted are available at http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/hot_topics/ht_2008/pandg_rev.htm. A draft revision to the principles and guidelines is expected to be available in July. Then, the Corps will begin drafting revisions to the detailed guidance on benefit analysis. WRDA 2007 allowed 24 months for revisions to be completed and adopted, specifying a deadline of November 8, 2009. ■

visit the new Coastal Disasters News Page; or, you can join a COPRI committee, write your members of Congress about the need to reinvest in the nation's infrastructure; or, if you haven't done so already, renew your COPRI membership.

As the rain clears and the sun begins to dry the ground here in Iowa, I thank you all for what you have done for COPRI and wish you a safe and enjoyable summer. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you have about the Institute at jbblanchar@aol.com. ■

Become a COPRI Member Today!

If you are not already a COPRI member, we invite you to be a member of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute. Becoming a member of this Institute is an excellent way to keep current in your field, enhance your professional skills and network with other specialists in the discipline. You can also join the various committees, which will allow you to actively develop key technical, professional and educational issues of COPRI. Please visit

<http://www.coprinstitute.org/membership/>

or contact Jennifer Moulton at jmoulton@asce.org or (703) 295-6370.

Mark Your Calendar 2008

- July 2008 **Practical Applications to Deep Foundations: Buildings, Bridges, and Ports**, California and Washington
- Aug. 13 **COPRI Council of Committee Chairs Meeting**, Reston, VA.
- Aug. 14 **COPRI Board of Governors Meeting**, Reston, VA.
- August 31–
September 5 **International Conference on Coastal Engineering 2008**, Hamburg, Germany
- Sept. 8 **Offshore Technology Conference 2009**, Paper summary deadline.
- Oct. 11–15 **Fourth National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration**, by Restore America's Estuaries. Rhode Island Convention Center, Providenc, RI



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