

Final Program (THC-2015)

8:30 a.m. Welcome Remarks

C. Vipulanandan (Vipu), Professor and Director of THC-IT, University of Houston

Session I: (8:40 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.) General Session

Moderator: C. Vipulanandan, Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Houston, Houston, Texas

Jack Steele, “HGAC Regional Preparedness and Related Issues,” Executive Director, Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, Texas, Keynote Speaker.

Michael Talbott, "Recent Flooding in Harris County," Director, Harris County Flood Control District, Houston, Texas.

Michael deMasi, “How the USACE Supporting Response and Recovery to Disasters,” Chief Emergency Manager, USACE-Galveston District, Galveston, Texas.

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break (Exhibit Area)

Session II: (10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)

Panel 1: Emergency Management Issues and Recovery

Moderator: Eylem Tekin, Industrial Engineering, University of Houston, Houston, Texas

Panelist (15 to 20 min. presentations)

John R. Flanagan, “Emergency Management in a Major City,” Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Houston, Houston, Texas.

Jay Hall "Disaster Related Challenges in Texas" State Coordinator, Texas Emergency Management, Houston, Texas;

Coordinating for Crisis, Building Resilience: Insights from Surveys of Gulf County Emergency Managers, Ashley Ross, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

Panel Discussion: Challenges in Preparedness and Recovery

Panel 2: Major Disaster, Repairs and Monitoring

Moderator: Trent Slovak, Vice President, KIT Professionals Inc, Houston, Texas..

Panelist (20 to 25 min. presentations)

Micelle Havelka, “From Drought to Flood (in less than 30 days) – TCEQ’s Review of Impact on Infrastructure,” Assistant Homeland Security Coordinator, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Austin, Texas;

Water Infrastructures and Issues, Trent Slovak, Vice President, KIT Professionals Inc, Houston, Texas.

Jason Iken, “SW WWTP After the Historic Flooding on Memorial Day” Senior Assistant Director of Wastewater Operations , City of Houston, Houston, Texas.

Mapping Urban Flood Using Interferometric SAR – Preliminary Results, Hyongki Lee, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.

Panel Discussion: Water Issues and Major Disaster Recovery

Lunch Break, Exhibition & Research Posters

Posters on research at Various Universities along the Gulf Coast Region. Companies participate in the Exhibition.

11:45 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. Senator Larry Taylor "Disaster Issues in Texas ", State Senator, League City, Texas.

12:10 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Judge Robert Herbert "Are Levees in Fort Bend County Ready for Hurricane" County Judge, Fort Bend County, Sugar Land, Texas.

12:35 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. "Emergency Response at ExxonMobil", Peter Jensen, ExxonMobil Corporation, Baytown, Texas.

Session III: (1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.)

Panel 3 : New Technologies and Coastal Protection

Moderator: C. Vipulanandan, Houston, Texas.

Panelist (15-20 min. presentations)

Flash Flood 2015: UAS Search and Recovery Operations in Wimberley, Texas, Maurice Griffin, Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Comprehensive Surge Protection for the Galveston Bay Complex, William Merrell and Leonard Waterworth, Texas A & M University, Galveston, Texas.

Craig Karty, “Oil Spill Prevention and Response Division: Derelict/Abandon Vessel Turn-in Program,” Texas General Land Office, La Porte, Texas;

Dike and Adjustable Shutter Coastal Protection Against Storm Surge in Galveston Bay, C. Vipulanandan, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.

Panel Discussion: Coastal Protection Issues and Modeling.

Panel 4: Recovery and Wind Engineering

Moderator: Rafael Ortega, President, Aurora Consultants, Houston, Texas.

Eric Dargan, “Recovery after a Disaster (Any Protocols): Debris Removal and Clearing Streets,” Deputy Director for Street & Drainage Division, City of Houston, Houston, Texas.

“Hurricane Ike: A Path to Recovery and Protection, Lessons Learned,” Steve Leblanc, Assistant Vice President, Risk Management, UTMB Galveston, Texas.

“Wind Engineering for Resilient, Smart and Sustainable Structures,” Mousaad Aly, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Wind Tunnel Studies on Structural Integrity, Wally Ford, Executive Vice President, Cardno Hayes Whaley, Houston, Texas.

Panel Discussion: Lessons Learned and Loss Mitigation

RECEPTION: (2:30 - 3:30 p.m.)

Reception will be held in the Exhibit area (food and drinks). In addition to conference participants, number of city, county and industrial leaders will be invited to participate. This is a good opportunity to network and number of door prizes is waiting for you.

Professional Development Hours (PDH)

Earn up to 5 hours of PDH by attending the conference. Certificates will be issued after the conference.