

# HURRICANES, MAJOR DISASTERS, COASTAL PROTECTION AND RAPID RECOVERY IN TEXAS AND GULF COAST REGION

THC – 2013  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



**Texas Hurricane Center**  
for Innovative Technology

Conference and Exhibition  
Sponsored by

**Texas Hurricane Center for Innovative  
Technology (THC-IT)  
&  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Industrial Engineering  
University of Houston**

**August 2, 2013**

University Hilton  
University of Houston  
Houston, Texas 77204-3902

## Conference Registration

The Conference is presented in a one day concentrated format to update the community, emergency managers and suppliers who play an important role in hurricane and other disaster preparedness, loss mitigation and rapid recovery. Well known and influential speakers will provide valuable information to the conference attendees. Complete and return the registration form with the registration fee before July 26, 2013 for an advanced registration discount. Registration fee includes admission, lunch, coffee breaks, and free hotel parking. Registration and attendance will be limited to the first 120 registrants.

For Hotel Reservations call (832) 531-6300 or 1-866-327-1161 and ask for Hurricane and Other Disaster Conference Rate.

## Top Reasons To Attend:

- (1) Be informed about the latest plans and procedures in preparing for hurricanes and other major disasters in number of major Gulf coast cities.
- (2) Network with state, city and county emergency managers, engineers, suppliers, consultants, researchers, educators, scientists, students and exhibitors.
- (3) Presentations include debris management, preparedness, loss mitigation, evacuation, coastal protection, transportation issues, rapid recovery and new technologies that could influence your operations.
- (4) View research posters from many Gulf Coast Universities and attend the reception.
- (5) Houston is easily accessible from anywhere in the U.S.

For conference information or to reserve exhibition spaces call **Dr. Vipu** at (713) 743-4278.

## REGISTRATION

Advanced Registration (by 7/26/2013)	\$130.00
At-Door Registration	\$145.00
Student Registration*	\$ 60.00

Exhibitor^	\$300.00
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(A reception is planned in the exhibit area)

^One person has free registration  
\*Current I.D. and School Registration;

Please make check payable to THC-IT/UH  
and mail it to:

Conference Registration  
THC-IT/Dept. C&EE  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX 77204-4003  
(Attn: Dr. C. Vipulanandan (Vipu))

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nick Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
(office use only)

For more information

Phone: (713) 743-4278; Fax: (713) 743-4260

Email: [CVipulanandan@uh.edu](mailto:CVipulanandan@uh.edu)

## About the Conference

A one day Conference and Exhibition is being organized by the Texas Hurricane Center for Innovative Technology (THC-IT) on "Hurricanes, Major Disasters, Coastal Protection and Rapid Recovery in Texas and Gulf Coast Region" at the University of Houston on August 2, 2013. The presentations will include current preparation plans for the entire Gulf Coast including Texas counties and cities for the 2013 hurricane season and other disasters. Special feature of this conference is the four panel discussions on hurricane issues, other disasters, coastal protection and debris management. After the technical sessions, a reception will be held starting at 2:30 p.m. with invited state, city, county and industry leaders in the exhibit area to facilitate networking. The conference fee also includes lunch, coffee breaks, reception and parking. Earn 5 PDH by attending the entire conference.

### List of Distinguished Speakers

#### Session I: (8:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.)

**Stephen Costello** "Hurricane and Flooding Related Challenges in Houston" City Council Member, City of Houston, Houston, Texas, Keynote Speaker;

**Jack Steele**, "HGAC Regional Preparedness and Related Issues," Executive Director, Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, Texas, (Keynote Speaker).

**Port of Houston Challenges and Issues, Colonel Len Waterworth**, Executive Director, Port Authority of Houston, Houston, Texas,

**Framework for Developing a Real-Time Broad-Area Disaster Management System, Olufemi Omitaomu**, Critical Infrastructure Group, Oakridge National Laboratory, Oakridge, Tennessee.

#### Session II: (10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon)

**Panel 1: Emergency Management and Recovery**

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

Panelist (15 to 25 min. presentations)

**Developing Professional Emergency Managers To Benefit Citizens, Jeb Lacey**, President, Emergency Management Association of Texas, Victoria, Texas.

**Coastal County Challenges and Preparedness, David Popoff**, Director, Galveston County Emergency Management, Galveston, Texas.

**Emergency Management Challenges and Planning Collaboration at Texas Medical Center, Angela Smith**, Emergency Management Planner – Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas

**NSF SEES Funding: Real-Time Geospatial Infrastructure Modeling for Disaster Response and Rapid Recovery, Craig Glennie and C. Vipulanandan**, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.

#### Panel 2: Power, Weather and Major Disaster Issues

**Moderator: Gino Lim**, University of Houston.

Panelist (15 to 20 min. presentations)

**Power Grid Challenges and Issues, Randal Pryor**, Director of Operations, Center Point Energy, Houston, Texas,

**Addressing Forecast Uncertainty in Hurricane Response Plans, Mark Chambers**, President, Impact Weather, Houston Texas.

**National Disaster Operational Work Group, Williams Grimes**, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas;

**Evacuation Optimization During Major Disaster Events, Pardalos Panagote, Professor**, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

#### Lunch Break, Exhibition & Research Posters

Posters on current research from **Various Universities along the Gulf Coast Region.**

Companies participate in the Exhibition.

**12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Nim Kidd** "Disaster Related Challenges in Texas" Chief of Emergency Management, Austin, Texas, Luncheon Speaker;

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

**Panel 3 : Coastal Protection and Modeling**

**Moderator: C. Vipulanandan**, Houston, Texas.

Panelist (15 to 20 min. presentations)

**David Martin**, "Hurricane and Flooding Issues Related to Near Coastal Towns" City Council Member, City of Houston, Houston, Texas.

**The Ike Dike: Status and Research, William Merrell**, Professor, Texas A & M University, Galveston, Texas and **Robert Whalin**, Professor, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi  
**Coastal Protection Systems and Storm Surge Spill Modeling Using Advanced Finite Element Methods, C. Vipulanandan**, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.

#### Panel 4: Lessons Learned and Other Disaster Issues

**Moderator: Rafael Ortega**, Vice President, LAN, Houston, Texas.

Panelist (15-20 min. presentations)

**Energy Security on a Barrier Island, Marcel Blanchard**, Assistant Vice President, Utility Operations, UTMB Galveston, Texas

**Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Hazards Risk Management., Gavin Smith**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**Local Disaster Resilience Across the Gulf Coast: Intersecting Capacities for and Perceptions of Resilience, Ashley Ross**, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

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

A reception will be held in the Exhibit area (food and drinks). In addition to conference participants, number of cities, counties and industrial leaders will be invited to participate. This is a good opportunity to network and several of door prizes are 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.

"Innovation through Research and Education"