

**HURRICANES, MAJOR DISASTERS, COASTAL PROTECTION AND RAPID RECOVERY IN  
TEXAS AND GULF COAST REGION  
Final Program- THC 2023 (August 4, 2023)**

**Session I: (8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) General Session**

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

**Chuck Wemple**, “Building a Stronger Region after Past Experiences,” Executive Director, Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, Texas, Keynote Speaker.

**Alicia Rea and Ricardo Vera**, "U.S. Army Supporting Responses and Recovery to Disasters: Blue Roof Management System," Director Emergency Manager, USACE-Galveston, Galveston, Texas, Keynote Speaker

**Jet Hays**, “Planning for Disaster Resilience,” Deputy Director, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas. Keynote Speaker

**10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Coffee Break (Exhibit Area)**

**Session II: (10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.)**

**Panel 1: Inland Flooding Issues and Recovery**

**Moderator: Rafael Ortega**, Aurora Technical Services, Houston, Texas.

Panelist (25 min. presentations)

**Ataul Hannan**, “MAAPnext Update,” Director Planning Division, HCFCD, Houston, Texas;

**Brian Manson**, “City of Houston Disaster Responses after Disasters,” Executive Director – Houston TranStar, City of Houston, Houston, Texas.

**Rob Winiecke**, “City of Galveston Experiences and Future Plans,” Director of Infrastructure and Engineering, City of Galveston, Galveston, Texas.

**Panel Discussion: Major Flooding and Recovery Plans**

**Panel 2: Transportation and Emergency Response Issues**

**Moderator: Daniel Wong, P.E.**, Tolunay-Wong Engineers, Inc., Houston, Texas.

Panelist (25 min. presentations)

**Erwin Burden**, “Projects and Plans for Harris County,” Director of Recovery and Resiliency, Harris County, Houston, Texas.

**Richard Herrera**, “METRO Plans for Storm Response,” Emergency Management Officer, METRO, Houston, Texas.

**Melody Galland**, “TxDOT Plans for Storm Response,” Director of Maintenance, TxDOT, Houston, Texas.

**Panel Discussion: Challenges in Transportations and Emergency Responses**

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## **Lunch Break, Exhibition & Research Posters**

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

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

**12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. K. P. George, “Disaster Related Challenges in Fort Bend County, Texas” County Judge, Fort Bend County, Sugarland, Texas.**

### **Session III: (1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.)**

#### **Panel 3 : Coastal Issues, Tornadoes Disaster Impacts and New Technologies**

**Moderator: C. Vipulanandan, Director of THC-IT, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.**

**Lieutenant Commander Namon Dimitroff “Preparing a Port for Heavy Weather,” U.S. Coast Guard Houston-Galveston, Houston, Texas.**

**Tornadoes Disaster Impacts with Data Analyses, Protection and Disaster Management with New Technologies for Rapid Recovery, C. Vipulanandan, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.**

**Panel Discussion: Coastal Protection and Tornadoes Disasters Issues and New Technologies.**

#### **Panel 4: Resilience and Sustainability of Maritime Ports**

**Hurricane Impact on Capital Projects using Heavy Lift Ships, Marco Poisler, COO at UTC Overseas, Houston, Texas.**

**Power Network Grid Restoration Planning using Machine Learning, Behnam Sabzi, Jian Shi and Gino Lim, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.**

**Panel Discussion: Transportation and Port Issues**

#### **RECEPTION: (2:45 - 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.

