

ACES Senior Employees Second Conference

ACES Senior Employees Second Conference was held at the Movenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba from 16-18 April, 2015. The conference participants included department, technical and operation managers from all ACES branches as well as the Corporate Headquarters (CH) officers, deputy CEOs, and company Directors. The conference provided invaluable opportunity for meeting, exchanging information, enhancing collaboration between branches, group bonding, entrenching ACES culture, and discussing technical, administrative and operational issues. Insightful presentations were provided by ACES Directors, Dr. Omar Abdulhadi & Dr. Izz Eddin Katkhuda, and the Deputy CEO, Dr. Naeem Abdulhadi.

The conference also included technical presentations which ran in two concurrent sessions, one for the geotechnical topics while the second for the material testing, quality control and special studies topics. In addition, a management and leadership session was conducted by an external management & strategy consultant, Mr. Khaled AlKurdi. The social activities included an enjoyable boat trip in the Red Sea as well as a wonderful trip to the rose-red city of Petra in the third day of the conference. Trophies were provided to all participants by ACES Directors at the end of the conference.



ACES Opens a New Office in Saudi Arabia



ACES is pleased to announce the opening of a new office in Al Medina Al Munawarah - KSA. The new presence aims to cater to the high demand for ACES specialized engineering services in KSA's Eastern Region. The Medina offices is the seventh location in the Kingdom, and is part of the greater ACES network present in Riyadh, Jeddah, Khobar, Najran, Buraydah and Jazan.

ACES Medina is strategically located on Al Salam Street. The office is fully operational, and has signed a contract with Fawzan Trading and Contracting Company for the implementation of geotechnical & site investigation and materials testing for the first phase of Dar Al-Hijrah.

"Saudi Arabia has been one of our strongest markets and a key focus for us within the region since we entered more than 13 years ago" said Dr. Amjad Barghouthi, Regional Manager for KSA, Jordan and Yemen. "The opening of the new office, ACES Medina, is considered another important step for us towards realizing our strategic expansionary plans in Saudi Arabia and meeting the increasing needs and requirements of our strong client base for our specialized engineering services in the country."

Training on Pavement Performance Evaluation at ACES Riyadh

The Amman-based Pavement Studies & Evaluation Regional Center of Excellence has conducted a training course on pavement performance evaluation at ACES Riyadh from 4-5 April, 2015. Material engineers and technicians from ACES Riyadh, Jeddah, and Khobar offices attended the course which was delivered by Dr. Ibrahim Asi, Pavement Studies and Evaluation Center of Excellence Manager. The course covered a wide range of topics including highway maintenance & rehabilitation, flexible pavement surface distresses causes & repair, pavement condition calculation, maintenance management systems, pavement performance evaluation, among others. In addition, a field application for distress evaluation and recording was carried out in the second day of the training.



ACES Amman Participates in the 6th Jordanian International Civil Engineering Conference



ACES Amman recently participated in several capacities in the 6th Jordanian International Civil Engineering Conference held in the Landmark Hotel, Amman, between 10th and 12th March 2015. In addition to being one of the sponsors, Dr. Amjad Barghouthi (Regional Manager for Saudi Arabia & Jordan) was the head of the organizing committee whereas Dr. Naeem Abdulhadi (Deputy Group CEO) was a member of the committee. Moreover, a technical paper titled "Site Investigation for Kingdom Tower" coauthored by Dr. Naeem Abdulhadi and Eng. Emad Sherif (ACES-Dubai Manager) was presented in the conference.



Dr. Naeem Abdulhadi gave the presentation on the "Site Investigation for the Kingdom Tower" in the geotechnical session in the conference. The paper/presentation described the comprehensive and integrated geotechnical investigation works carried out by Arab Center for Engineering Studies (ACES) for the Kingdom Tower in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The height of the tower is expected to exceed 1,000m, which will make it the tallest building in the world. The site investigation was carried out in three phases and included 81 boreholes in which the deepest borehole was drilled down to 200m. Extensive field tests were carried out including permeability packer,

high-pressure dilatometer, and PS suspension down-hole geophysics. The laboratory tests ranged from routine index and classification tests to more complex tests like instrumented unconfined compression and advanced consolidated drained triaxial tests. Comparisons between field and laboratory test results were presented. It is worth mentioning that ACES was also involved in the site investigation campaign for Burj Khalifa in Dubai (currently the tallest building in the world), as well as many other super-tall towers in the Arab World.

ACES Organizes a Series of Geophysical Presentations across Saudi Arabia

A series of presentations covering geophysical methods and their applications were carried out in the past few months by Dr. Hamdan Hamdan (Head of Geophysical Unit in Saudi Arabia).

The presentations were organized by the Saudi Council of Engineers and took place in five cities, namely: Riyadh, Jeddah, Khobar, Abha, and Tabouk. Additional presentations will be arranged in Al-Medina, Najran and Jubail in the next few months.



ACES Organizes Business Strategic Planning Training Course in ACES Riyadh & ACES Muscat



A comprehensive training course on Business Strategic Planning was conducted by Mr. Samir Said, Chief Marketing & Business Development Officer, for ACES Riyadh & ACES Muscat in the spring of 2015.

The training course focused on the newly updated ACES business planning manual. It covered the components of the business plan, benefits and pitfalls of business planning, as well as the ACES policies and procedures on business planning and quarterly business reviews.

ACES Muscat also received an extensive training course on marketing titled "Effective Marketing Strategies for Building and Enriching Client Relationships".

The material introduced in the courses has been incorporated into the 3 year business plans.

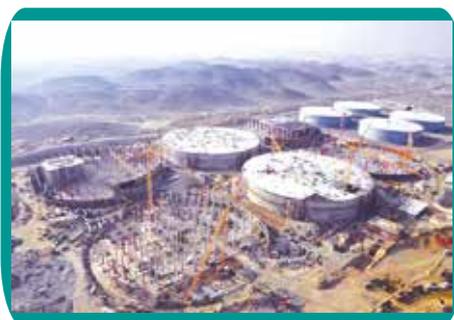
Selected Major Projects

ACES Doha

ACES Doha recently completed the geotechnical investigation for a marine restaurant (the Jetty Dining) at the cultural village of Katara, located on the eastern coast between the West Bay and the Pearl. The development spreads over an area of 5,000m² and consists of 8 chalets, a restaurant and a kitchen sitting at the end of the wooden walkway to approach the chalets and restaurants. The scope of work consisted of drilling 11 offshore boreholes down to a depth of 15m below seabed level and 3 boreholes to a depth of 15m on the existing jetty. The offshore boreholes were drilled using "jacked-up" pontoon. Extensive field and laboratory tests were also carried out as part of the geotechnical investigation. The project owner is Katara Projects whereas the consultant is Engineering Consulting Group (ECG) and the contractor is Redco.



ACES Jeddah



BS, AASHTO, etc). ACES Jeddah successfully completed the geotechnical investigation for this project also.

ACES Jeddah is currently carrying quality control and material testing for the largest water reservoirs in the world (Certified by Guinness World Record) with total capacity 2,062,500 cubic meters located in Briman, Jeddah-KSA. The client is Al Muhaidib Contracting Co & VINCI Construction UK Ltd and the consultant is CDM Office. ACES Jeddah started this project in August, 2013 and the duration of the project is approximately three years. The scope of work includes laboratory testing for the construction materials by using ACES Jeddah facilities in the site laboratory as well as the central lab. The project is being handled in a very professional way by ACES Jeddah staff, and with high quality following international standards (ASTM,

ACES Abu Dhabi

Technip has awarded ACES Abu Dhabi the geotechnical investigation and surveying contract for ADCO - Al Aabb'iyah ASR Gas Development Project. The geotechnical investigation scope includes drilling of 18 onshore and offshore boreholes, 41 cone penetration tests, 64 trial pits, 2 piezometers, 13 plate load tests, and 12 CBRs. Additionally, the investigation includes, 61 electrical resistivity profiles, 9 thermal resistivity profiles, 2 downhole seismic tests, as well as extensive topographic bathymetric surveys.



ACES Abu Dhabi was awarded the geotechnical, topographic & bathymetric surveying project by Hyundai Engineering for the Mirfa Independent Water & Power Plant. The scope of work includes drilling of 54 boreholes, 10 piezometers, 2 CPTs, 5 trial pits, 16 electrical resistivity profiles, 6 thermal resistivity profiles, 6 downhole seismic Tests, 12 pressure meter tests, 6 plate Bearing, 10 permeability Tests, 4 packer tests, environmental testing, multi-channel analysis of surface waves and electrical resistivity tomography.



ACES Riyadh

ACES Riyadh recently signed a contract with FAST consortium for the prestigious Metro project – line 6 (viaduct and elevated stations). The main scope of the project is cavity probing, rock level detection and fracture grouting. The project consists of two phases; the first phase includes boreholes drilling up to 40 meters depth (minimum 10 m in rock), casing, grouting as well as packer at end of casing depth; while the second phase includes boreholes drilling to determine rock level.



ACES Jeddah Expands Material Testing Facilities

As part of the enhancement of Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) offerings at ACES, two training and certification courses were conducted on Ultrasonic Testing (UT) & Magnetic Particles Testing (MT) by Eng. Anas Nairoukh at ACES Jeddah. Eng Anas is a certified ASNT Level III UT and MT tester and is the in house expert on NDT.

The certification course was attended by engineers and technicians from Jeddah, Riyadh and Khobar offices. At the conclusion of the course, Level II and Level I UT and MT certificates were awarded to several participants. ACES Group plans to conduct additional NDT training courses covering a wider array of NDT methods and expand testing facilities and equipment to continue to broaden our service offering.



New Appointment @ ACES Muscat

Eng. Anas Barakat has joined ACES as Deputy Branch Manager for ACES Muscat in February 2015. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering with a specialization in geotechnical engineering from the Jordan University of Science and technology (JUST). Eng. Anas has over 14 years of experience and has been involved in thousands of Site investigations projects covering a wide array of projects including high rise buildings, nuclear power plants and major infrastructure projects.



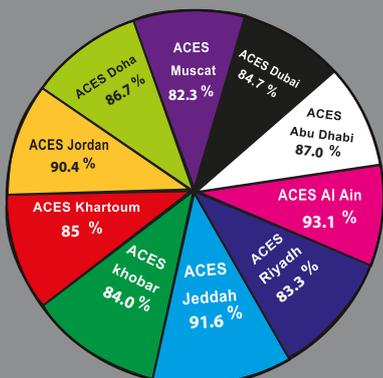
ACES 2014 Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

Every year ACES branches conduct customer satisfaction surveys in their markets of operation. The information they gather measures their customers' levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their services and staff and spotlights areas where they need to improve or focus more attention.

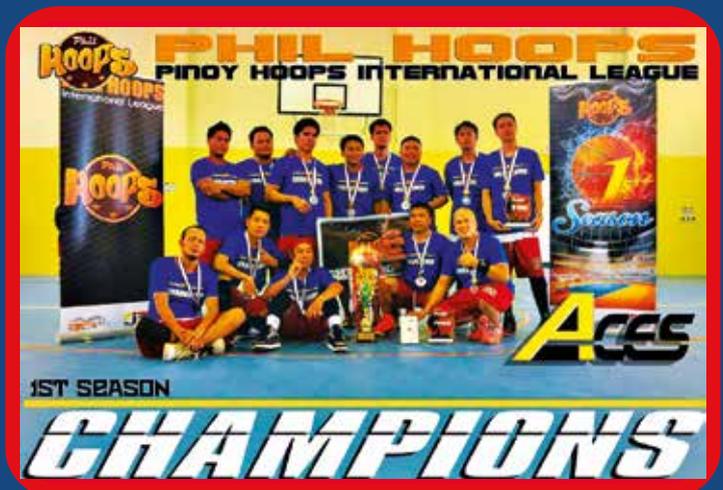
The pie below shows ACES customer satisfaction survey results for 2014 in ACES markets of operation.



Your Satisfaction
is Our Aim



ACES Doha-Basketball Champions



ACES Doha is proud to present the Champions of the 2015 Doha Inter-Company Basketball Tournament. ACES overcame the previously undefeated Brgy Azphire 74-68 in a highly contested championship game. Special thanks go to ACES Doha basketball team Coach Rodolfo Dimayuga and Engineer Ruel Reyes.