

# 25 ACES Celebrates Successful Years in the UAE



ACES celebrated 25 years in business in the United Arab Emirates end of last year with a gala banquet event, held in the grand ballroom in Beach Rotana Hotel in Abu Dhabi. The event was attended by over 300 of ACES stakeholders, including ACES Founders & Directors, Dr. Izz Eddin Katkhuda & Dr. Omar Abdulhadi, ACES Managers in the UAE, senior staff in ACES Group and more than 300 clients consisting of senior representatives of major governmental and private establishments in the UAE to whom ACES has been providing its engineering services in the last 25 years .

## The celebration activities

- Opening speeches by Dr. Katkhuda & Dr. Abdulhadi which addressed ACES major milestones and successful journey in the UAE and expressed appreciation to ACES stakeholders for their major contribution to ACES success.
- A presentation by Eng. Yousef Marei, ACES Abu Dhabi & Al Ain Manager, which presented ACES successful journey in the UAE since its establishment in the year 1989 to today .
- Distribution of trophies to ACES pioneers who dedicated more than 20 years of their professional life to ACES and contributed to its growth and success .
- Cutting of anniversary cake, traditional dances and Gala dinner.



## The UK Ambassador Visits ACES Headquarters in Amman



The UK Ambassador to Jordan, His Excellency Peter Millett, visited ACES headquarters in Amman-Jordan in late 2014 accompanied by Ms. Suha Batarseh, the Director of UK Trade & Investment. The Ambassador was warmly welcomed by the Partners & Directors of ACES, Dr. Izz Eddin Katkhuda and Dr. Omar Abdulhadi, and was presented with a short movie at the start of the visit highlighting ACES history, services and major achievements in the region. The Ambassadors' visit focused on potential cooperation between ACES and the UK Embassy and the support that the UK Trade & Investment Department can

offer to ACES in different areas such as : collaboration between ACES and UK Universities/organizations on training and consultancy services in ACES areas of expertise, establishment of strategic partnerships with UK/EU consulting engineering companies operating in the region, signing of joint venture agreements, acquisitions of drill rig manufacturers and companies similar to ACES, financial and technical support ,supply of material and consumables and marketing of ACES services. Concluding the meeting, all parties expressed interest in strengthening relations through further cooperation at various levels.

## ACES Erbil Moves into a New Location



ACES Erbil is pleased to announce that it has moved its office and laboratories to new location in the same Erbil's Pirzin suburb area. The new premises have spacious offices and testing laboratory area, with extension of steel testing facility, geotechnical drilling stores and others. The new location gives ACES Erbil the space and facilities to provide its customers with unmatched testing capabilities and superior customer service. It's worth mentioning that ACES entered Kurdistan north of Iraq in July 2013 and became in a short period a well-known name with a leading market position.

## New Appointments @ ACES Khobar & ACES Jordan

**Mr. Rashad Kilani** joined ACES Khobar in Dec. , 2014 as a Branch Manager. He obtained his Masters degree in Geology (Geotechnical and Geophysical Investigation) from the University of Jordan in 1996. He Joined ACES Amman and worked as a geologist from 1996 to 1998 and after that he shifted to Qatar to be part of the team to establish ACES Doha branch and worked in Qatar for approximately 17 years starting as a geologist, geophysicist up to the year 2000 and and then as the geotechnical department manager. During his career life , Mr. Rashad was involved in few thousands of site investigation projects not only in Qatar but also in UAE, Yemen and Jordan. In Qatar , he was supervising more than 170 people and his technical experience was focused on the site and geotechnical investigation for high-rise buildings, ports, oil & gas plants and pipelines in addition to major infrastructure projects.



**Dr. Thaer Wahshat** joined ACES as Jordan Manager in January , 2015. He obtained his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University of Science and Technology in USA in 2001 in the field of Geotechnical and Civil Engineering Materials. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the US since 2001. Dr. Thaer started his career in the US and then joined the Hashemite University in Jordan as an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering in the fields of geotechnical engineering and materials. After leaving the Hashemite University, Dr. Thaer moved to the engineering industry and worked as a Technical Manager of ACES in Jordan (2004 to 2006) and then moved abroad to join other companies in the GCC . He possesses extensive experience in geotechnical engineering, civil engineering materials , quality control and management, business development , soil improvement systems and soil reinforcement via geosynthetics. His projects exposure and experience was in the US, UAE , Oman, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia



# Selected Major Projects

## ACES Dubai

ACES Dubai recently completed the geotechnical investigation for the prestigious project "Blue Water Dubai" for Meeras Holding in Dubai, UAE. The scope of work included drilling of more than 90 boreholes of depths ranging between 35-80 meters using ACES Dubai latest drilling rigs' facilities and 12 rigs to carry out the project which featured a demarcated warf retail, residential, hospitality and entertainment zones. The project was handled by ACES Dubai staff and drillers in the most professional manner to ensure high drilling efficiency, optimum productivity, top safety working conditions for the drillers and maximum client satisfaction.



## ACES Jordan & ACES Dubai

ACES Jordan and ACES-Dubai joined forces recently to complete the site investigation works for the existing Dikes 19 & 20 at Salt Pan 0B in Dead Sea, Jordan. This investigation was carried out to assess the existing dikes 19 & 20 and the alternate alignments in order to put the dike 19 back in operations after a sudden and catastrophic failure occurred on March 2000. The scope of work included drilling of 10 standard penetration test holes, 48 seismic cone penetration holes, 10 field vane shear holes and 8 flat plate dilatometer holes down to approximate depth ranging from 35.0m to 45.0m in addition to performing the necessary and applicable laboratory testing and geotechnical reporting.



## ACES Riyadh

ACES Riyadh has recently finished working on the prestigious Riyadh Metro Project. ACES Riyadh worked with two of the three consortiums (BACS and ANM) awarded the project on the biggest three Metro Lines. The site investigation included borehole drilling, laboratory testing and geophysical survey. The newly established Geophysical Unit in KSA with the support from the Geophysical Regional Center of Excellence in Dubai has made a promising start and their initial signed quantities have been significantly increased after the consultant big satisfaction of their first results. Moreover, they are signing a two years contract for any additional geophysical work needed from BACS. The geophysical survey included electrical resistivity tomography, seismic refraction, multi-channel analysis of surface waves, seismic down-hole and cross-hole tests.



## ACES Muscat

ACES Muscat successfully completed the geotechnical investigation works and topography survey for the prestigious project EPC of Central Processing Facility, Khazzan Gas Project for British Petroleum (BP, OMAN). The project included 38 boreholes up to a maximum depth of 30 meters, 17 trial pits of 4.5m deep and conducting field tests [ pressure meter, PLT, ERT, thermal resistivity test, seismic down hole test ] along with routine laboratory and chemical tests.



## ACES Abu Dhabi

ACES Abu Dhabi was recently awarded one year contract for Storm Water Quality Monitoring Program for the Department of Municipal Affairs, Abu Dhabi Municipality. The aim of the project is to monitor the quality of the storm water discharged into the sea in order to prevent any harmful effect on the environment. ACES Abu Dhabi Scope of work includes regular sampling of water from more than 36 locations within Abu Dhabi Island and Abu Dhabi Industrial Zone. Samples will be taken from the storm water manholes, as well as from the ambient water around the discharge locations. Each sample will be tested for different physical, chemical and microbiological parameters to establish potential contamination and



the necessary information to concerned authorities to take necessary measures to control the storm water quality and prevent contamination of marine environment.

## Representatives from Oman Visit ACES Headquarters



Representatives from Oman Municipalities visited ACES corporate headquarters in Amman-Jordan in late 2014. The representatives were accompanied by Eng. Mazen A Jilani, expert in roads, bridges design & construction and construction material, to learn about ACES experience and discuss possible ways of cooperation with ACES in Oman. The representatives were welcomed by Dr. Izz Eddin Katkhuda, Partner & Director of ACES. During the visit, the representatives were given a short presentation on ACES history, range of services and facilities as well as major achievements and projects in the MENA region including Muscat-Oman. The visitors also observed some material tests in ACES Amman laboratory including bituminous mixture, soil tests, aggregate tests, and reinforcement tests, among others.

## ACES Doha Expands its Material Testing Facilities

As a leading construction material laboratory in Qatar, ACES Doha endeavors to continuously expand its testing facilities and increase the number and scope of tests to cope with the fast growing construction industry in the country. In the past two years, ACES Doha introduced numerous new services in environmental/chemical testing, pile testing & instrumentation, asphalt and binder testing, membrane & geotextile testing as well as other miscellaneous tests. Some examples of the new facilities introduced recently includes large-scale shear box apparatus, optical omission spectrometer, rock fill tilt system, among others.



## ACES Organizes Site Investigation Seminar for Kurdistan Ministry of Electricity



A site investigation seminar was delivered by Dr. Naeem Abdulhadi (Deputy Group CEO) for the Kurdistan Ministry of Electricity in Erbil-Kurdistan on 3 February 2015. The seminar was attended by senior engineers and officials from Erbil, Duhok and Sulaimani governorates as well as ACES Erbil senior staff. The seminar covered several topics including objectives of site investigation planning and work approach, determining the number and depth of boreholes, drilling procedures, sampling, field testing, and laboratory testing. In addition, a case study was given on the site investigation carried out by ACES for the Kingdom Tower in Jeddah, which is set to be the tallest building in the world (height in excess of 1,000m). It is worth mentioning that ACES Erbil

is currently carrying out the quality control works for two major power plant projects for the Ministry of Electricity. In addition, ACES carried out the site investigation for the new Ministry building in Erbil in 2014.

## Testimony

To: Eng. Mohammad Almadani (Site Laboratories Manager) /ACES Abu Dhabi



"We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your site lab staff for the outstanding performance on our recent project "Old Reinstatement & Rehabilitation of Infrastructure Work." We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your endless cooperation; professionalism, technical support and responsiveness during all project milestones which was very helpful in achieving everything we wanted. We were also very pleased with your technical staff at project site lab as they were always courteous, hard-working and attended all of our requests with diligent attention. After completion of the project, we are highly satisfied with your quality services provided to us; therefore; we would strongly recommend your esteemed firm (ACES) to any prospective client looking for a testing laboratory that is knowledgeable, proficient, and conscientious about their

business. Congratulations on the great job. We are very pleased with how things turned out and looking forward to working with you and your staff again".

Liu Tao  
Project Manager  
China Harbour Engineering CO.L.L.C.