

## ACES IS 30 YEARS OLD

Anniversaries bring memories, memories of achievements and of failures. Memories of happiness and of disappointments. After 30 years from ACES inception I look back and see a wonderful and rewarding journey, a journey full of achievements; from one small office to a regional network, from handful colleagues to 1,500 highly trained professionals, from one small drill rig to a fleet of more than 150 wide ranging capabilities rigs, from a testing laboratory to tens of well equipped laboratories. We would not have reached to this position without the hard work and commitment of our staff, and the earned confidence from our loyal clients. We built human and assets resources and gained experience and professional reputation.

We accumulated through the years small success stories to become the largest in the region. Through these years the management had unshaken commitment to provide quality service to its clients, to partner with them and to fulfill their needs. Anniversaries are also opportunities for looking ahead. ACES has achieved a lot, but still a lot to be achieved. We want to build upon our strong base. We want to be a truly international company, with a strong corporate structure and wider global coverage. We want to diversify and enlarge the scope of our services, to modernize our assets, and to have a more effective and flexible top management team. All of this cannot be achieved without the commitment of our colleagues at all levels, without their feeling of ownership, without further training and without applying fair and measured incentive schemes based on performance. I would like to invite all of our colleagues to be part of our journey, to be the elements of change and to earn the success they truly deserve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dear clients who bestowed their confidence in ACES, and allowed us to partner with them through our journey. Thanks to our most valuable assets, our staff, for their commitment and hard work. Thanks to our suppliers, thanks to our competitors for providing high level of challenge that we had to overcome, and thanks to our local societies in all areas of our operation. We are committed to serve them and protect their environment. We are committed to take care of our colleagues, morally and financially. We are committed to train them, to develop their professional careers and to provide a healthy work environment for them in order to actualize their capabilities. We will continue marching ahead.

Dr. IZZ EDDIN KATKHUDA  
Partner & Director



Dr. IZZ EDDIN KATKHUDA & Dr. OMAR ABDULHADI

Thirty years has passed since the establishment of ACES. These years had its ups and downs, successes and failures, achievements and disappointments, internal and external challenges, optimism and pessimism, peak and downturn years and continuously fierce competition. It required leadership, planning, hard work, patience, endurance, innovation, entrepreneurship and most of all confidence in ACES abilities and capabilities to reach to what I believe is a true success story.

ACES commitment to quality and professional integrity as well as its vision to be the leader wherever it operates is the driving force behind its successes.

Customer and employee satisfaction are also major factors in ACES culture which helped ACES earn its current prestigious position.

Although ACES currently operates through a network of 17 branches in 9 countries, has a workforce of over 1500 colleagues and more than 150 drill rigs, our ambition is much more. ACES is in the middle of a long road towards its ambitious horizontal and vertical expansion plans. This path is full of challenges which require long term strategic planning, all types of resources (

human, equipment and financial), organizational and financial restructuring, full use of ACES positive and negative experience and use the state of the art methodologies for healthy expansion. ACES is looking forward to make use of the opportunities available in North and central Africa, East Europe and additional parts of Asia.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of ACES family for their contribution in ACES success and for their hard work, commitment and loyalty during all of these years.

Dr. OMAR ABDULHADI  
Partner & Director

**30**  
**Years**  
**of Performance**  
**Excellence**

## ACES Riyadh Participated in Symposium and Exhibition

In the period from 21 to 23 April 2013, ACES Riyadh manager, Eng. Musa Afaneh, and the senior staff in the office attended a symposium and exhibition entitled "Quality Control Laboratories in Structural projects" under the patronage of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural affairs (MOMRA) in collaboration with the Council of Ministers of Municipal Affairs in the Gulf Cooperation council. The aim of the symposium was to improve the quality control culture and believes in the independent labs which are considered the most important party in quality control operations. Large number of companies and specialists in this field from Europe, USA and Middle East were invited to present their innovation, to exchange experience and to discuss modern and smart technologies used in material testing, structural and controlling quality during and after construction.

ACES Riyadh participated in the exhibition to introduce to the visitors the specialized equipment and techniques in geophysical, material, special studies and geotechnical departments, in addition to the direct participation of the quality control department manager, Eng. Essam Hanafy, in describing the methodologies deployed at ACES Riyadh Projects.



## Pavement Training Course at ACES Riyadh

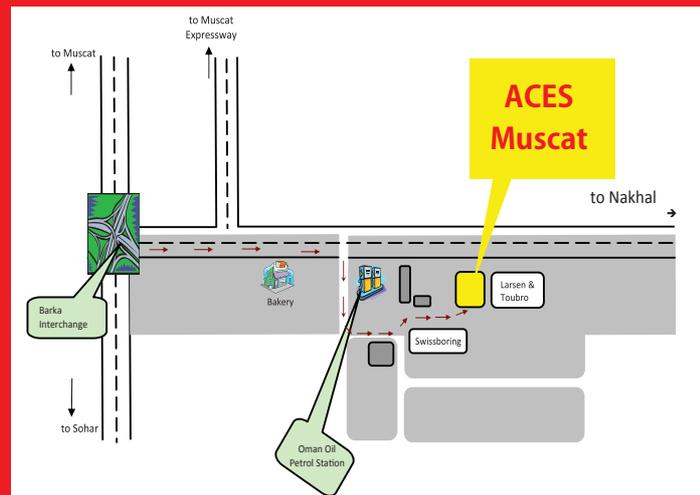


The Amman-based Pavement Studies & Evaluation Regional Center of Excellence has conducted a training course on asphalt mixes and pavement evaluation at ACES Riyadh from 6-8 May, 2013. Material engineers and technicians from ACES Riyadh, Jeddah, Khobar, Najran and Breydah offices attended the course which was delivered by Dr. Ibrahim Assi, Pavement Studies and Evaluation Center of Excellence Manager. The course covered important topics such as pavement materials (soil/asphalt/aggregate), marshal mix design, superpave binder testing and specifications, hot mix asphalt construction and placement and performance evaluation of asphalt concrete mixes. This event was also a great opportunity to share experience and knowledge among ACES branches.

## ACES Muscat Relocates to a New Building in Barka

After three successful years of launching ACES services in Oman, ACES Muscat decided to move its office from its old building in El Mobelah area to a new building in Barka area in Muscat. The new building is much bigger than the old building, almost twice the size, and will allow ACES Muscat to further improve its high levels of customer service and expand and develop its facilities in terms of laboratory testing, maintenance and staff accommodation.

The picture below shows ACES Muscat new building and on the right ACES Muscat map location.



# Selected Major Projects

## ACES Dubai

- ACES Dubai has been awarded the geotechnical works for the prestigious project Etihad Railway network-Stage III (X0126). The scope of geotechnical works consists of drilling of several boreholes including diagraphy boreholes, conducting geophysical investigation, geological mapping / assessment, elastmeter, double packer, plate load test, field CBR, etc.. The Etihad Railway network will connect Jabel Ali to Dubai-Sharjah Junction, Dubai-Sharjah to Habhab-Twaveen Junction, Hajar Mountain Crossing to Fujairah Port and Al Dhaid to Hajar Mountain Crossing. The client is Etihad Rail Company and the consultant is Parsons AECOM joint venture.



## ACES Abu Dhabi

- ACES Abu Dhabi was recently awarded a major site investigation project for 500 villas in Al Falah Community Development Area in Abu Dhabi. The project is part of the major master planned development Al Falah community, which occupies an area of about 12.5 million square meters in the outskirts of Abu Dhabi. The scope of work consists of drilling of 485 boreholes with depths between 20 to 25 m and related field and laboratory testing. ACES Abu Dhabi mobilized 14 of its drill rigs and drilling crews, along with necessary site supervisors, safety officers and logistical support to achieve the challenging project completion schedule of 3 months. The project consultant is Fluor, geotechnical consultant is Langan International, and owner is Aldar Properties PJSC.



## ACES Amman



- The materials department at ACES Amman in cooperation with ACES Regional Center of Excellence for Pavement Studies & Evaluation has completed a Pavement Structural Evaluation Study for the Northern Runway at Queen Alia International Airport. The study included nondestructive evaluation using the heavy falling weight deflectometer and surface texture and roughness measurement, and destructive testing through obtaining cores from the asphalt and concrete pavements, dynamic cone penetrometer (DCP) survey and excavation and evaluation of asphalt and soil test pits. The available Super Heavy Falling Weight Deflectometer (SH-FWD) at ACES was used to perform the deflection testing at 430 test locations along the runway. To represent Boeing B777-300 aircraft

wheel load, each test location was evaluated by applying a load pulse of 27.0 tons and the resulting deflection basin was measured through the use of fifteen geophones. Through the use of the back-calculation techniques, moduli of all pavement layers were calculated and the Pavement Classification Numbers (PCN) of the runway were obtained. Three dimensional drawings for the PCN, surface roughness and surface texture distribution along the airport runway were submitted to the client (Ministry of Public Works and Housing).

## ACES Jeddah

- ACES Jeddah has recently completed the geotechnical and material work for the Makkah Mass Railway Transit Project (MMRT) for Line-C, in Makkah Al Mukarramah, KSA. The scope of work of the project includes drilling for 94 boreholes with a total depth of 3070m, auguring and coring as well as laboratory tests including sieve analysis, plasticity index tests, UCS tests, point load tests, direct shear tests, hardness tests, Brazilian tests, porosity & density of rock, abrasion tests, contamination tests and routine chemical tests for soil and water samples. The owner of the project is Means Makkah Mass Rail Transit Company (MMRTC), the client is Khatib Al Alami Company and the consultant is SYSTRA.



## ACES Muscat

- ACES Muscat has recently started a prestigious project for sealing works at wadi dayqah dam project. The project consists of geotechnical investigation, including field studies and laboratory analysis. The scope of works includes very accurate, fully automated in-situ water pressure test using wireline packer procedure to asses grouting requirements of the dam foundation.



**New Recruitments @ ACES**



**Dr. Hamdan Hamdan**  
Head of the  
Geophysical Unit, KSA

Dr. Hamdan Hamdan joined ACES Riyadh in March 2013 as the Head of the Geophysical Unit for KSA. Eng. Hamdan has a B.Sc. in Mineral Resources Engineering, MSc. and PhD. in Geotechnology and Environment from Greece (Technical University of Crete). His experience extends over 10 years in near surface geophysics and its applications in geotechnical, environmental, hydrogeological and archeological investigations. His previous work was as Research Associate in Technical University of Crete, Greece.



**Geo. Maher Ghanem**  
Operation Manager  
ACES Jeddah

Geo. Maher Ghanem joined ACES Jeddah on March 2013 as Operation Manager. Geo. Maher has a B.Sc. in Geology, over thirteen years of experience in geotechnical engineering, and has been involved in many big projects. He has previous experience with ACES Dubai and ACES Doha for several years.



**Eng. Barakat Arar**  
Material  
Department Head  
ACES Riyadh

Eng. Barakat Arar Joined ACES Riyadh as material department head recently. Eng. Barakat has a B.Sc. in civil engineering from Philippines, 24 years of experience in material engineering and quality control. Eng. Barakat worked previously with ACES Amman for several years.

**ACES takes this opportunity to wish Eng. Hamdan, Geo. Maher and Eng. Barakat Arar a successful and fruitful career with ACES.**



Eng. Hadeel taking a trophy from Dr. Mohammad Nouh Al-Qudah  
(Dr. Muhammed to the left, Eng. Hadeel to the Right)

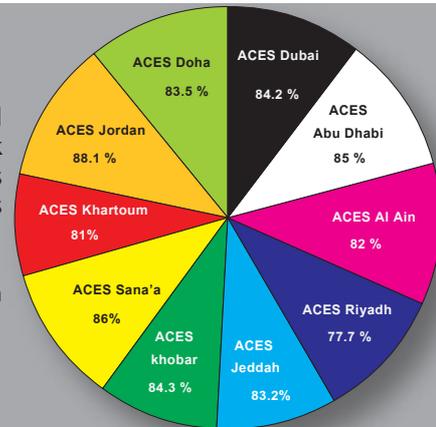
**ACES Amman Participates in JICEC 5**

ACES Amman participated in the Fifth Jordanian International Civil Engineering Conference (JICEC 5) which was held between the 17-19th of January, 2012 in Landmark hotel in Amman-Jordan. ACES Amman was represented by Eng. Hadeel, material engineer, at the conference who presented a technical paper on the effect of basalt and limestone combinations on the superpave aggregate properties, and was additionally rewarded for being one of the young engineer's innovators at the fifth young engineer's innovations forum that was held by Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) on 17th of February 2013.

**ACES 2012 Customer Satisfaction Results**

ACES conducts every year a customer satisfaction survey to monitor and measure its customers' level of satisfaction with its services and staff and seek ways for improvement in the markets of operation. ACES customer satisfaction is a key marketing performance indicator and a key element in ACES business strategy.

The pie on the right shows ACES customer satisfaction survey results for 2012 in the markets of operation.



**Your Satisfaction is Our Aim**

**Top Management Visit to Muscat**

With unshaken commitment to quality and to maintain high customer and employee satisfaction, ACES Top Management made a quick visit to a project at Wadi Dayqah Dam, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. Dr. Izz Eddin katkhuda (Director and Partner), Eng. Emad Sharif (Manager of Muscat & Dubai) made a visit to a specialized dam investigation project. They made a discussion with client representative at the site (M/s. Zublin) for ACES commitment and customer satisfaction regarding ACES Muscat technical and management capabilities. Top Management also made a chat with ACES Muscat employees for the arrangement and their satisfaction.

