

NEES 6th Annual Meeting

The 6th Annual Meeting was held at the Red Lion Hotel at Jantzen Beach in Portland, Oregon on June 18th-20th. It was a great success with 227 attendees, and included people from all over the world as well as our newest class of Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) students.

The two-day meeting was preceded by meetings of the Site Operations Committee (SOC), the Education, Outreach and Training (EOT) Advisory Committee and a meeting of the Site IT managers with NEESit. The Equipment Site Forum met as well. There was also a meeting of the NEESR PI's that was hosted by Joy Pauschke from the National Science Foundation (NSF). All of these meetings were well attended and very productive. The SOC spent the day going over the site work plans in detail. This is an essential part of the annual management review of site operations, the results of which feed right into the annual NEES budget. Without the hard work of the SOC and NEESinc staff in this effort, the budgeting process at NEESinc would not be possible.

The EOT group discussed the plans for the upcoming year so that the efforts can be well directed and to keep our sites focused on those areas of EOT that are most important. We also discussed the REU activities planned for our new award.

The Site IT Managers meeting was an important discussion with NEESit about the site needs for IT support. With all of the improvements in IT operations that have been forthcoming from NEESit, this meeting provided an opportunity to discuss how these improvements are being seen from a site perspective, and what areas really are in need of improvement. Items identified included the Site Specific Data Base (SSDB), the data repository and the need for continued enhancement of telepresence. We also discussed the needs for enhanced support from NEESit for specific site issues in telepresence.

The technical program was very well received by the meeting attendees. The talks represented a range of topics from the new NEHRP report on the directions for the program to results from current NEESR research. These talks showcased the quality of the outcomes being generated from the NEES program and how these projects connect with the greater problems of earthquake hazard mitigation in the United States and elsewhere. The consensus is that the Annual Meeting really illustrated how the NEES program is having an impact on practice and on the greater community. To access archived presentations from the Annual Meetings, please visit the NEES website at <http://www.nees.org/Education/AnnualMeeting/>.

At lunch on Thursday, Kit Miyamoto of Miyamoto International gave a presentation of his recent trip to China to view the damage from the Sichuan earthquake. The slides that he presented were truly amazing, showing the serious levels of damage to structures. Most significantly was the damage to school buildings and the large numbers of students who were injured or lost their lives. A number of slides showed people looking for missing relatives, which shows the human impact of these events and puts a face to what we are researching and hoping to mitigate. These slides represent one of the few collections that are available to the public from a team that has visited the area. These slides are will be available for viewing very soon on the NEES website.

As usual we held the banquet and awards presentation. This year's awards recognized sites and individuals who have made significant contributions to the NEES Community in one form or another. These awards represent the time and effort that these colleagues have invested into the Network. A summary of these awards is as follows:

NEES 6th Annual Meeting Awards

Most Effective EOT Activity:

Integrating NEES into California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS) Program
Benson Shing UCSD
Andreas Stavridis UCSD

Most Effective EOT Activity

NEES@UC Davis for the Demonstration Day at ASCE GEESD Conference
Bruce Kutter UC Davis

Most Effective EOT Activity

NEES@UCLA for Demonstration Day at ASCE GEESD Conference
Bob Nigbor (received by Alberto Salamanca) UCLA

Most Effective EOT Activity

NEES@Rensselaer for Demonstration Day at ASCE GEESD Conference
Ricardo Dobry Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Most Effective EOT Activity

NEES@Utxas for Demonstration Day at ASCE GEESD Conference
Ken Stokoe University of Texas at Austin

Outstanding Service to Researchers

NEES@Berkeley for Excellent Support for NEESR Project - "Ultra Low Cycle Fatigue Cracking in Steel Structures"
Bozidar Stojadinovic UC Berkeley

Best IT Innovation

Real-Time System Visualization Tool
Sri Sritharan Iowa State University
Jian Zhao University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Manimaran Govindarasu Iowa State University
Wei Deng NEESit

Best Experimental Site Innovation

NEES@Buffalo for Nonstructural Component Simulator
Andre Filiatrault (Received by Tom Albrechinski) University at Buffalo, SUNY

Outstanding Contribution to NEES Community Leadership

Roberto Leon Georgia Institute of Technology

Outstanding Contribution to NEES Site Operations

Marc Eberhard University of Washington

Founding Member of NEES Board of Directors

Kenneth H. Stokoe, II (received by Farn-Yuh Menq) University of Texas - Austin

Outstanding Service to the NEES Research Community

Masayoshi Nakashima NIED E-Defense Miki City, Japan

Outstanding Contribution to the NEES Community Cyberinfrastructure

Jerry Hajjar University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Greg Fenves UC Berkeley