



AURORA

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Edmonton - Section

February 2007

President's Message

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Happy New Year to all AACE members. On behalf of the board I extend my warm wishes to all AACE Aurora section for a very dynamic year full of activities, happiness, and prosperity.

For the new faces who joint our board of directors in the past few months - WELCOME to all of you. We have a challenging work to do ahead of us for the benefits our Section.

I am pleased to introduce to you our first newsletter. We are planning to have four newsletters throughout the year.

Your AACE Aurora board members are working hard to make our section one the most noticeable and shining sections. Let me share with you some of the activities that the board has been working hard on to serve the Aurora Section Community.

□ **Membership:** All board members agreed to focus on increasing membership and also enhancing the service provided to our present members.

□ **Dissemination of Knowledge:** The section has provided the community with highly qualified experts from the cost management and construction fields to share their knowledge and experience with the Aurora community. It gives me a great joy to see that all dinner meetings were well attended; and is expected to continue and even increase for the rest of year's seminars. Many attendees continue their discussions and networking after the official meeting is over, which is a good sign and encouraging one.

□ **Skills and Knowledge Training (S&K):** We are constantly reviewing the Skills and Knowledge seminars, based on the feedback of the participants, to correctly reflect the CCC and CCE certificate exam. We have now new and improved S&K seminars that are presented by very qualified members. It is expected that more than 30 participants will be attending the AACE Aurora S & K seminars. The seminars will take place in March 2007. Make the AACE certificate your 2007-year's resolution.

□ **Web-Based Information Centre:** We are continually working to enhance the information and services provided by our web page. I encourage all of you to visit our web site to know more about the upcoming events and the previous presentations. Please give us your feedback and let us know what you think.

□ **Scholarships for Academic Students:** Our Aurora chapter, with the collaboration with Calgary's Chinook chapter, offered 2 scholarships to graduate students who showed a great performance during the course of their study, and working on a research topic related to cost engineering.

For the remaining half of the year, let me explore with you our goals. We will continue in providing you with the best topics that handle Cost, mitigate the risk of overruns, cost management techniques, cost derivatives from owner/consultants/contractors perspectives, and the effect of contingency factors on the project success.

As we succeeded in our S&K seminars, we are planning to succeed in organizing seminars for Risk assessment and perhaps planning and Scheduling Professional (PSP) seminars.

I also will start working on replacing the current board with new blood to carry the torch through the next year. Election for the 2007/08 new boards is just around the corner. Be ready and come forward and volunteer. We are depending on you in continuing the AACE Aurora missions.

Looking forward to meet all of you in our next dinner meeting scheduled on February 27. Come out and enjoy the presentation, the fellowship, the good food, and the networking. Remember to bring a friend with you.

On behalf of the AACE Aurora chapter, I would like to extend our congratulations to Ms Flora Ying for having a baby child last Christmas. What a wonderful gift.



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Other chapter news:

We have great plans for our monthly dinner meetings. We already scheduled the four meetings with following speakers,

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 27, 2007	Mr. Ed Cimic	Project Risk Analysis
March 12, 2007	Mr. Konrad Siu	Municipal Infrastructure
April 30, 2007	Dr. Stanislav Karapetrovic	Standard Quality Assurance\
May 22, 2007	Mr. John Zhao	Contingency Factors

We are looking for more ideas from members for other speakers and topics. This is not just for the remaining part of 2007, but for the upcoming season of 2008 as well. If you have any suggestions for speakers and/or topics, please let us know.

I would like to remind you that, we are still looking for interested candidates for helping the present ACE Aurora board and to prepare them to carry the torch for next year. Please contact any of the officers or directors in this regard. Also, I encourage all of our members to become more involved in our chapter activities.

Again, thank you for your support. We are looking forward for your participation, your contributions, and also to seeing you in our meetings. Any ideas, comments or suggestion on how to improve services to our members will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to call us.

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