



ARABIAN GULF SECTION

Newsletter

January 2005

Message from the President

This year the Arabian Gulf Section has marked 24 years of success and achievements. On behalf of the Section's officers and Board of Directors I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your professional participation and contribution.

Since its foundation in 1980 the Section has focused on all aspects of cost management, including cost estimation, cost control, planning & scheduling, profitability analysis, and project management. The Section has played a major role in introducing latest cost engineering techniques to its members. Many cost practitioners in the region have been certified by AACE-International as Certified Cost Consultants due to active role of the Section.

This year we are planning to offer our members an opportunity for interface with the latest technology and all aspects of cost management. We are going to have various technical activities including technical dinner meetings, technical workshops and seminars. Also, we are going to offer the Cost Engineering course twice to prepare candidates for the Certification Examination and host the Certified Cost Engineer Examination in December 2004 and in July 2005.

Our Board of Directors is working hard to improve Section's services and with your active participation we will achieve our goal of making the AACE-International the association of choice for project controls professional

Important Announcements

The Fall 2004 Certification Examination was held on December 30, 2004 at the Dhahran International Hotel. The examination, which started at 8:00AM, consisted of four-papers for CCE/CCC candidates and two-papers for ICC candidates.

The Arabian Gulf Section also announces its first Technical Dinner Meeting for 2004-2005 to be held on February 27, 2005 at Dhahran International Hotel from 7:30PM. The technical presentation will be followed by certificate distribution and dinner at 8:45PM. Interested participants are requested to register for the event by Wednesday, December 8, 2004.

The first certification examination for the new Planning & Scheduling Professional (PSP) was held at UAE on the December 09, 2004 at Abu Dhabi.

The Spring Cost Engineering course will start on March 7, 2005. To register for the course visit the AACE-AGS website and download the application form

The membership of the Arabian Gulf Section comprises of cost engineers, project engineers, schedulers, estimators, and other professionals interested in cost management. Our mission is to advance and promote total cost management in the region.

Accomplishments for 2003-2004

In its last administrative year (2003-2004) the Arabian Gulf Section had conducted the Certification Refresher course twice in Dhahran at the Dhahran International Hotel. For the first time in its history the Section had invited interested participants for Interim Cost Consultant (ICC) certification to attend its course, nearly all of the candidates were students from the prestigious King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) located at Dhahran, to prepare them for ICC certification examination. Mr. Gulam Farooq, CCE also volunteered to conduct the Cost Certification Refresher course for six candidates in Bahrain interested in achieving their certification during the Spring 2004 session.

The Section also hosted the Certification Examination in both Fall 2003 and Spring 2004. The Fall 2003 examination was held at both Dhahran and Jubail locations while the Spring 2004 examination was held at Dhahran, Jubail, Bahrain, and Abu Dhabi. A singular achievement was the first-ever holding of the certification exam in United Arab Emirates. This was made possible through the efforts of Mr. Hammad ud din Tahir, CCE, Director-UAE Region.

Publications in Cost Engineering Journal of Arabian Gulf Section Members during 2003-2004

The technical papers submitted by the following members, as part of their certification requirement, were accepted for publication in the Cost Engineering Journal of the AACE International.

Punnackattu V. Thomas, CCE (May 2003). *"Best Practice for Process Plant Modifications (Fertilizer Plants)"*

Hammad Ud Din Tahir, CCE (April 2004). *"Effective Planning Techniques for the Execution of an EPC Project"*

Congratulations

The Board and members of the Arabian Gulf Section of the Association for Advancement of Cost Engineering International heartily congratulate the following individuals on attaining their first-time certification during 2003-2004.

Madhu Pillai, CCE (KSA)
Pankaja Pradeep Kumar, CCE (Bahrain)
Sam Mathew, CCE (Bahrain)
Vijayakumar P. R. Nair, CCE (Bahrain)
Baji Koshy Thomas, CCE (Bahrain)

Junaid Ahcom, ICC (KSA)
Mir Farooq Ali, ICC (KSA)
Muhammad A. A. Al-Mezaal, ICC (KSA)
Mohammed Kashif ul Asad, ICC (KSA)
Daliya Babu, ICC (UAE)

The Arabian Gulf Section of the AACE International invites its members to submit articles or any news they want to share.

To submit articles and other material for publication in the AACE-AGS newsletter e-mail them to aace_ags@yahoo.com

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

The purpose of the certification program of the AACE-International (Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering) is to provide official and public recognition of the capabilities of an individual in the professional area of the Cost Engineering. The certification indicates demonstrable expertise in the most current skills and knowledge of the Cost Engineering profession. Individuals designated as Certified Cost Consultant (CCC) are recognized as having capabilities detailed within the definition of cost engineering. Certification in these areas is rapidly becoming the industry standard.

The objectives of the certification program are:

1. To raise the professional standards and improve the practice of cost engineering by giving special recognition by their peers to those who, in fulfilling prescribed standards of performance and conduct, have demonstrated and maintained a high level of competence and ethical practices
2. To identify for employers, clients, and the public, persons with a broad knowledge of cost engineering, and the capability to professionally apply the principles of Total Cost Management
3. To establish a program with the goal of continuous improvement of individual cost engineering skills and professional development
4. To clarify the skills and knowledge and standards of conduct for the practice of cost engineering

In today's world of intense competition in the workplace, the need for proficiency in the principles and practices of Total Cost Management is the concern of all businesses and companies. Certification is verification of that proficiency. It provides assurance that the person performing the work is qualified and up-to-date on the latest techniques and has the experience and knowledge to apply them.

Certification Program encompasses specialties in cost estimating, cost control, business planning and management science, profitability analysis, project management, planning and scheduling, and other cost management specialties.

Certification requires that the individual has the necessary knowledge education and at least eight years of cost engineering work experience. He/she must also demonstrate acquired knowledge through successfully passing a comprehensive written exam and preparing an acceptable technical paper on a Total Cost Management subject.

CERTIFICATION COURSE

The AACE-AGS conducts the Cost Engineering course twice each year to prepare candidates for the Certification examination. The Fall Cost Engineering course is currently in progress and the Certification examination will be held at Dhahran International Hotel on December 30, 2004.

The Spring Cost Engineering course will start on March 7, 2005. To register for the course visit the AACE-AGS website and download the application form.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ARABIAN GULF SECTION

MISSION & VISION

Our Mission is to advance and promote Total Cost Management in the Arabian Gulf Region.

Our Vision is to be the recognized professional association for Total Cost Management in the Region.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a forum for interested professionals to get together and exchange information/ideas to enhance their knowledge in the field of Total Cost Management.
- Introduce current changes in technology to help keep abreast with the latest developments in the field.
- Provide an opportunity to increase our members' interaction with local industries to enhance their understanding of various aspects of business in the Region.
- Encourage our members and others to become Certified Cost Engineers or Certified Cost Consultants.

STRATEGIES

Provide the following services to our members, their employers, and the professional community in the region to meet the above objectives:

- Organize technical dinner meetings with a presentation on a topic of interest.
- Organize technical workshops on the current technology changes.
- Conduct tours of local industries for our members.
- Offer the cost engineering Certification course and host the Certification examination.

Program Calendar:

AGS has, at its second Board Meeting held on December 02, 2004, issued a tentative schedule the program calendar for the year 2004-2005 including four technical dinner meetings, six technical seminars, two certification exams, and two sessions of cost engineering preparation courses.

Photographs of the event



Board of directors members of AACEI/AGS for 2004-2005 from Left Ahmed Al-Muairfi- Public Relation, Gulam Farooq- V. P. Technical, Cherian Varghese- Regional Affairs, Nabil Al-Hashim- Membership, Ibrahim Bubshait- President, Khalid Al-Abdulwahed- Secretary, Bader Al-Otaibi- Treasurer, Farouq Khory- V. P. Administration.

NEW AACE INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION – EVP

The Earned Value Professional is currently being developed by a distinguished task force of industry experts assembled by AACE International. The EVP designation will recognize specialists who meet a demanding set of earned value criteria -a rigorous examination, experience, education and ethical requirements.

For more details contact aace_ags@yahoo.com

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Arabian Gulf Section/AACE International
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http://www.geocities.com/aace_ags
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groupAACE-AGS>**



Board members at meeting held on Thursday December 02, 2004, at the International Hotel, Dhahran. This meeting was held to discuss all events on the program calendar for year 2004-2005.

ARABIAN GULF SECTION OFFICERS & BOARD FOR 2002-2003

OFFICERS

President	Ibrahim Bubshait, CCE
874-6626	
VP Technical	Gulam Farooq, CCE
860-4383	
VP Administration	Farouk, Khoury, CCC
874-6622	
Secretary	Khalid Abdulwahed
874-7207	
Treasurer	Badr F Otaibi
873-7366	

DIRECTORS

Past President	M. S. A. Warsi, CCC
Course Coordinator	M. Abdu Waris CCE
Publications & Public Relations	Ahmed Al-Muarfi, CCE
Regional Affairs	Cherian Varghese, CCE
Jubail	Mohd. Imran Asghar CCE
UAE	Hamad ud din Tahir CCE
Bahrain	TBA
Membership	Nabil Al-Hashim, CCC



Some of Course participants attending the Cost Engineering Certification preparation course in Dhahran International Hotel, December 2, 2004. From left: Bader Al-Otabi, Abdulghani Al-Janabi, Abdulhadi Al-Shaaer, Hasan Abdulla, Ali Taha (not in picture), and the instructor Gulam Farooq discussing some of the exams requirements.

For more information about the Arabian Gulf Section, please contact the above Officers or Directors. In addition, visit the Arabian Gulf Section's on-line website at

http://www.geocities.com/aace_ag

and the AACE International on-line website at

<http://www.aacei.org>

Members are also requested to join the Arabian Gulf Section's Discussion Group located on <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AACE-AGS>