

ASHRAE — QATAR ORYX CHAPTER

November 2009



Qatar Oryx Chapter participates in the ASHRAE Region-At-Large CRC 2009 conference in Kuwait (3-5 October 2009)

The ASHRAE – Qatar Oryx Chapter participated on the ASHRAE – Region At Large's (RAL), Chapters Regional Conference (CRC) meeting, which took place in Kuwait (3-5 October 2009).

Mr. Gordon Holness (ASHRAE President), Mr. Jeff Littleton (ASHRAE Executive Vice President) attended the three day meetings that were lead by Dr. Walid Chakroun - Director RAL.

Delegates from 19 ASHRAE Chapters outside North America attended the conference to represent their Chapters, exchange experience and raise motions to the Society in joint effort to improve Chapter operation efficiency and service to the Society members and the profession.

Ramiz Gabriel (President Elect), Hani Hawamdeh and Subrat Kar (Vice Presents), Denise Haladjian (Research Promotion Chair) and Mohamad Mokdad (CTTC) represented the Qatar Chapter at the conference.

Presidential award of excellence (PAOE) were distributed during the conference. Qatar Chapter received one PAOE and five research promotion medals.

The conference is very important annual ASHRAE event that enable ASHRAE leaders in the region to exchange information

and experience on running their local Chapters.

On side of the main meetings, four training workshops took place to train the Chapters' Student Activity Chairs, Membership Promotion Chairs, Research Promotion Chairs and CTTC chairs.

A full day technical symposium took place on the last day where Mr. Gordon Holness presented ASHRAE vision and initiatives. Dr Tom Lawrence (ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer) presented ASHRAE standard 189.1 "Design of High-Performance, Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings", which will come to effect on January 2010. In addition, twelve technical papers where presented during the day. Sustainability, Green Building design, energy and water efficiency and high performance buildings were the main subjects of every talk or discussion.

Qatar Chapter delegates take this opportunity to express their appreciation to the Kuwait Chapter BOG and members for their warm Kuwaiti hospitality and the high level of organization that resulted in a successful conference.

All members are encouraged to browse the ASHRAE RAL web site at www.ral.ashraeregions.org

Chapter Officer:

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Newsletter Editors:

David Brown Editor
Ramiz Gabriel Editor
Denise Haladjian
Seenu Pillai

WISDOM OF THE MONTH

If you think Education is Expensive ... Try Ignorance.

ASHRAE Oryx Chapter Participates in the “SUSTAINABLE FACILITY MANAGEMENT FORUM”

The ASHRAE - Qatar Oryx Chapter, endorsed the “Sustainable Facility Management Forum”, which took place in the Millennium Hotel – Doha, on 27-28 September 2009.

The Chapter participates in professional events that directly lay within ASHRAE mission as part of our duty of raising public and professional awareness about the latest issues of concern or interest to the profession. We, also, take such opportunities to inform the audience about the local Chapter, its activity and service to its members and non-members.

The event planners, “Marcus Evans”, gathered twelve speakers who presented different aspects of sustainability issues. The speakers covered various environmental problems that we are facing, suggested long and short term solutions and the global initiatives in the effort to resolve them.

The discussions focused on construction projects' impact on the environment, Green Buildings design and required government involvement.

Raising public and professional awareness was clearly defined as the most important step toward solving the environmental problems.

Ramiz Gabrial (the Chapter's President Elect) and Seenu

Pillai (the Chapter's Secretary) participated in this event, on their personal capacity. They presenting their speech titled “Step by Step Approach Toward Achieving LEED-EB Certification”.

The speakers addressed sustainability and its economical, environmental and social dimensions. They addressed conventional design methodology and compared it with the Integrated Design Process, which is becoming the new approach to Green Building design.

Integration design process enables all construction project stakeholders to participate in identifying the problems and work out their solutions, through share of knowledge and experience.

The speakers (also) covered energy and water efficiency in existing buildings and discussed practical approaches to reduce demand and waste of resources.

They demonstrated why we needed Green Building rating system and provided broad description of the LEED for Existing Buildings Green Buildings rating system.

The speakers welcome all professionals interested to get copy of the presentation slides to communicate with them by e-mail at



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BUILDING ACOUSTICS – COMMON ISSUES AND SUGGESTED REMEDIES

Noise is generally described as unpleasant, unwanted or undesired sound. The design of buildings need to concern both unwanted noise such as noise from HVAC equipment, hydraulics systems and external noise in addition to privacy so that one does not hear ones neighbour. These issues become more critical the higher the quality of the building and purchaser expectation is. The level of acoustic amenity provided in a building directly affects the quality of the building and the re-sale value of such spaces.

It is very difficult once a building has been constructed to "upgrade" the acoustics. It also has to be understood that good acoustics come at a cost and that generally one "gets what one pays for".

Both Architectural and Building Services details are considered important in defining the level of acoustic amenity in buildings. Below I will list some of the major architectural and services issues and elaborate on the services issues as they are more related to the mechanical engineers' responsibility

Architectural Details: (a) Façade Noise Transmission, (b) Floor impact isolation, (c) Inter-tenancy Walls, (d) Waste Pipes from one level, (e) Road Traffic and Aircraft Noise, and (f) Swimming Pools above sensitive areas.

Building Services Details:

Mechanical Plant: If not sufficiently acoustically treated this can have a significant impact on the overall acoustic amenity of occupied areas. Key considerations are extract and supply air fans, Fan Coil Units, chillers, cooling towers and external condensers.

Duct regenerated noise: Often mechanical duct systems are required to travel up the full height of a building. These ducts can also change locations up the building and set across in the ceiling void of sensitive areas. Such ducts, if sized at too high velocities or if the bulkhead around the duct does not provide sufficient acoustic isolation, can generate high levels of noise.

Pumps and Pump rooms: Pumps are typically required for high rise buildings. Where a mid-rise plant room is required these pumps can easily impact noise into adjacent sensitive areas (above, below and each side)

Lift motor rooms: Lift motors are relatively noisy. Noise and vibration from these rooms can easily affect adjacent spaces.

Lifts travelling in lift shafts: Where lift shafts pass beside sensitive areas, the wall may require upgrading. Lift rail system fixing and

detailing will also require consideration.

Garbage Chutes: These are noisy and should be supported from vibration isolation mounts and be made of fibrous cement and not steel. Ideally they should be located away from occupied spaces.

Water Supply Pumps: Experience has found these to be a common noise source in high rise buildings they should be well vibration isolated with flexible connections between the pump and the pipe work.

Standby Power Plant: These can generate high noise and vibration levels and even though used for short lengths of time can be significantly annoying. Ideally they should be located away from sensitive areas in a sound rated enclosure. If located on the roof they must be very well vibration isolated and acoustically enclosed.

Spa baths: The pumps in these baths have the potential to create low level, tonal noise in lower areas. This noise can be such as to be significantly intrusive requiring that the pump or bath be vibration isolated from the building structure.

The management of noise in high rise buildings is a complex process requiring good planning, design, management, documentation and processes. When managed correctly the end results can be a significant increase in the internal amenity of the building and with not necessarily a significant increase in cost. In some instances a cost saving is provided. By the application of many basic principles, many noise problems can be avoided without the need for engineered solutions. It has been our observation in Doha that as the levels of affluence increase, the expectations from owners/occupiers have risen significantly requiring that issues of acoustic amenity be addressed in detail. A building with poor acoustics can easily gain a bad name and be difficult to either sell or lease.



ARIF ZAHER: is a Director of Al Mana & Associates (AMA)

www.amagatar.com. He is Member of the New Zealand Acoustical Society and holds Bachelor and Masters Engineering degrees (Mechanical).

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

The newsletter committee invites all ASHRAE members and non-members receiving this newsletter to provide us with their comments on any issue related to the newsletter or Chapter operation. We believe that the Chapter and any of its activities are as strong as the professionals' reaction to it. Please forward any comments to Ms. Denise Haladjian on dhaladjian@hotmail.com

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MY COMMITTEE, MY OFFICE

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During the coming issues of the newsletter, the newsletter committee will try to highlight the duties and effort of various Chapter committees and offices. A series of short articles titled "My Committee, My Office" will be written by committee chairs and officers. In this issue, we invited Ms. Denise Haladjian, the chapter Treasurer to tell us about this important Chapter office.

The Chapter's treasurer is responsible for conservation of the treasury and for coordinating in generating income for the group".

In our chapter, most part of the work is done before and after each event, to ensure that the chapter has enough money to carry out the stated aims and objectives, and make sure that we do not overspend, or under spend. The majority of the chapter's events are sponsored by local or foreign companies. The money collected from tickets' selling contributes in the operation and continuity of the chapter, and permit to conduct some technical meetings free of charge for the members.

The main treasurer responsibility is to maintain accurate records and supporting documentation of finances, to keep reports to a reasonable level of detail that provides a clear audit trail for all transactions and to report to the board meetings the financial status.

By the end of the chapter's fiscal year (June 30th), an auditing committee, appointed by the BOG (Board of Governors) and consisting of three auditors from among the active members (other than officers or members of BOG), will examine and certify to the accuracy of the treasurer's annual report, before presenting it to the DRC (Director & Regional Chairman) during the annual CRC (Chapters Regional Conference) in September or October.

(ASHRAE has now 186 chapters around the world that are grouped into fourteen (14) Regions according to each chapter's location; ASHRAE Qatar Oryx Chapter (#184) is the 18th chapter of the RAL (Region-At-Large)).

DENISE HALADJIAN, LEED AP, PMP: is founding member of the Qatar Chapter. She works with C.A.T. International W.L.L, on Porto Arabia project, Pearls – Qatar. Denise hold Bachelors and Masters degrees in mechanical engineering.

The newsletter committee expresses its deep gratitude to KEO International for sponsoring printing 75 hard copies of each issue for distribution during Chapter events



SNAP SHOT FROM THE ASHRAE RAL CRC MEETING IN KUWAIT

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