

The Bridge Technical Administrative Committee of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute hosted a workshop on **Enhancing Bridge Performance** February 21 and 22, 2008 at its Headquarters in Reston, Virginia, cosponsored by the Federal Highway Administration. The purpose of the workshop was to gather members of the structural engineering community to set an agenda of critical needs for enhancing performance of bridges. This was the first workshop of members of the committees of the SEI Bridge TAC and focused on bridge deterioration issues and on key data elements that could be included in measuring bridge behavior to ensure safety and long term survivability.

The 2-day Workshop was attended by members of the engineering community with keynote addresses given by Dr. Tom Ho, Vice President of TY Lin International, and Dr. Steven B. Chase recently retired from the Federal Highway Administration. Dr. Ho's talk centered on '*evolution of bridge technology*', and Dr. Chase's on the '*long term vision for enhancing bridge performance*'. Other invited speakers included Dr Glenn Washer, of the University of Missouri, Columbia, discussing '*technologies for condition assessment of bridges*' and Dr. Hamid Ghasemi of FHWA, presenting an '*overview of FHWA's Long Term Bridge Performance Program*'.

The participants then heard from each committee chair or their representative on bridge deterioration issues and performance measures for their representative bridge types. The committees of Bridge TAC include Steel Bridge, Timber Bridge, Bridge Management and Inspection, Cable Supported Bridges, Bridge Security, and Concrete Bridge. We heard from Dr. Reagan Herman, Chair of the Steel Bridge Committee on corrosion and fatigue as being of critical concern with steel bridges; from Mr. James Wacker, Chair of the Timber Bridge Committee on moisture issues as being critical for durability of timber bridges; from Dr. Nur Yazdani, Chair of the Concrete Bridge Committee and Danielle Kleinhans on host of issues from design to construction to inspection for concrete bridges; from Dr. Khaled Mohammed, Chair of the Cable Supported Bridges on what's critical for cable supported structures; from James Ray, Chair of the Bridge Security Committee on issues critical to safety and security of bridges, and from Dr. Sreenivas Alampalli, Chair of Bridge Management and Inspection on bridge inspection and the National bridge inspection program.

The second day, attendees participated in discussions on improving the current condition of our bridges, how to build better, how performance can be enhanced, and other issues of importance to the bridge community. A report summarizing the workshop is being prepared. For more information contact Bridge TAC Chair – Sheila Rimal Duwadi at sheila.duwadi@fhwa.dot.gov.