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## **Strategic Initiatives & Innovation Committee Activity Report December 2008-June 2009**

### ***Breakthrough Innovation Office***

The SII Committee met at ASME's Washington Center on February 25, 2009, to review and revalidate the parameters established for the ASME Office of Breakthrough Innovation (BI) as well as run test case scenarios through the online innovation portal, ASME IdeaPort. This process yielded significant improvements in the IdeaPort application process and identified gaps in legal guidelines and material.

The Committee on Finance and Investment has approved a \$250K fund in FY10 for initial development of projects vetted through the IdeaPort process. Pending final approval on funding by the Board of Governors, the committee plans to have the BI Office and ASME IdeaPort operational first quarter, FY10.

### **Center for Engineering Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CEEI)**

#### ***Market Analysis Project, CEEI***

Based on the strategic road map developed by SII staff and Performance Strategies, work has begun on an implementation plan to build these programs starting fourth quarter FY09 into FY10. Areas of focus include enhancement of resource material geared toward entrepreneurs and industry on the CEEI home page; developing a monthly webinar series for entrepreneurs and those interested in technology-based economic development; and finding sustainable financial support for the ASME IShow program. Members of the Committee on Early Career Development will be meeting with the SII Committee on June 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss these programs and others in the areas of entrepreneurship and innovation that speak to the ECE community.

#### ***ASME IShow***

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ASME IShow is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the ASME Annual Meeting on June 14, 2009, in Palm Desert, CA. The 2009 competition is being supported through a grant by the ASME Foundation.

To allow for a more cost-effective and sustainable model, the competition has been narrowed to seven competing schools. The IShow Committee will be meeting in July-August 2009 to evaluate the direction of the program, lessons learned, and best opportunities for continued growth and success.

#### ***2009 ASME Annual Meeting***

Partnering with the Industry Advisory Board, an Industry Roundtable is being held on Breakthrough Innovation on June 15<sup>th</sup> at the ASME Annual Meeting. Dr. Gina O'Connor, Co-author of *Grabbing Lightning: Building a Capability for Breakthrough Innovation*, will moderate a panel that features case studies from Battelle, IBM, GE, and Westinghouse. The roundtable will address the complex issues surrounding how to foster an environment that clearly identifies breakthrough innovation and supports its development in entrepreneurial terms is critical to corporate competitiveness.

### **Industry Advisory Board**

The Industry Advisory Board (IAB) met in Washington, DC, on December 10-11 to discuss “The Future of Energy Policy: Through the Transition and Beyond.” The program focused on then President-elect Obama’s plan to invest in alternative and renewable energy and ASME’s own Energy Grand Challenge (see attached report). Additionally in early 2009, the IAB began hosting monthly webinars for members and other stakeholders on current topics of interest and activity for ASME.

The Board plans to meet in conjunction with the ASME Annual Meeting on June 15-16, 2009, to focus on Infrastructure Investment.

### **ASME ITI, LLC**

Based on the evolution of the RAMCAP methodology to an all hazards approach to risk management and in part to sector specific work, ASME ITI, LLC secured three SPGFs to be completed this fiscal year:

- Development of a Risk-Based Methodology to Assess Aging Infrastructure
- Development of a Water Security Standard
- Development of a Higher Education Risk Standard
- RAMCAP 3.0

### **Infrastructure Re-Investment**

Chaired by past ASME President Gene Feigel, the ASME-ITI Working Group on Infrastructure Re-Investment is tasked with 1) examining the critical issue of inadequate and deteriorating infrastructures in the United States, and 2) developing a comprehensive methodology to evaluate and help prioritize infrastructure investments for optimum benefit. The Working Group – along with other industry, risk, and security experts – convened at the ASME Washington, DC office on December 3-4, 2008, for an initial meeting to discuss risk and advocacy strategies. The Working Group has convened three committees; Methods, Feasibility, and Outreach. The Methods Committee convenes each week to discuss and specify design criteria; a risk-based methodology for consistent, comparable infrastructure investment evaluation. To ensure the evaluation is germane to particular sectors, the Feasibility Committee has been asked to work in tandem with the Methods Committee. The Outreach Committee will formulate a strategy for encouraging its adoption and application. Working Group efforts focus primarily on constructing the methodology and continuing outreach to key external stakeholders.

### **Water Standard**

ASME-ITI and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) are collaborating on developing an American National Standard for water and wastewater utilities based on the RAMCAP Sector Specific Guidance for Water Systems as well as the RAMCAP Plus<sup>SM</sup> Framework. ASME-ITI is serving as Secretariat and the effort is proceeding according to ASME-ITI’s standard development practice and procedures. A conference call of the Standard Committee on January 23, 2009, and distribution of a draft standard initiated the process. The Committee has met twice, each time to review an updated draft and to craft improved language for the standard. At least one more meeting will be held prior to public release and formal balloting on the standard.

## Higher Education

With a grant from American International Group (AIG), ASME-ITI developed a guidance on how best to apply the RAMCAP Plus<sup>SM</sup> process to higher education institutions around the nation. This guidance document, *RAMCAP Plus<sup>SM</sup> for Higher Education*, is currently being prepared for publication

ASME-ITI initiated a partnership with Alion Science and Technology to automate RAMCAP Plus<sup>SM</sup> for Higher Education through software. The software provides a database for existing safety procedures, risk assessment calculations, and best practices for reducing risk to students, faculty, and facilities on campus. This software has been successfully beta-tested at various colleges and universities and is currently being enhanced to make it market-ready. Plans are to finalize the software and sell it at the state level.

Additionally, ASME-ITI has convened a Standards Committee to develop *RAMCAP Plus<sup>SM</sup> for Higher Education* into an American National Standard. The draft Standard has been reviewed by the Committee and ASME-ITI staff is preparing the updated version for ballot and public review. We are aiming to submit the approved Standard to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) by August 2009.

## RAMCAP Plus, publication and standard

In February, ASME Press published "*All Hazards Risk and Resilience: Prioritizing Critical Infrastructures Using the RAMCAP Plus Approach*." While ASME Press coordinated efforts to announce the publication to relevant ASME member groups, ITI staff worked with ASME Communications in executing a press release and emailed announcements to Members of Congress, key staff of relevant congressional committees, officials at federal agencies, and state governors offices. A briefing was also arranged with staff of the National Research Council, which has been directed by Congress to conduct an assessment of DHS' risk analysis methodology. ITI also directed an announcement to members of DHS' National Infrastructure Advisory Council, which has a manifest interest in approaches that consider both risk and resilience.

ITI staff are working with their counterparts in ASME Codes and Standards to move this project forward. Former ASME president Bob Nickell has agreed to serve as chair of the committee that will develop this American National Standard, and invitations have been sent to more than a dozen prospective members. ITI made sure that the most current version of RAMCAP Plus – incorporating the Natural Hazards Appendix – is the 'platform' document for the draft standard. A copy of the draft standard has also been supplied to Jim Caverly of DHS' Science and Technology Directorate, which is the agency's arm having responsibility for supporting selection of voluntary standards that meet the requirements of Title IX..