



Aurora

A newsletter for members and friends of AE²C

www.ae2c.org / info@ae2c.org

Aug/Sept 2013

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The AE²C Dream

On August 28, 1963, thousands of people of all races and cultures crowded around the National Mall in Washington, DC to listen to the now famous "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As we honor that historic moment and the women's right to vote, we remember our ancestors who have toiled before us and advocated for justice and equality. For some of them the journey was short while others traveled months by boat to arrive on our shores. Today, there are yet many more that yearn to come to the United States.

Why does the myth of this "American Dream" resonate with millions from around the world? It is to have an opportunity – an opportunity to build a life for ourselves and our children that is better than it was for our predecessors; an opportunity to contribute our strengths and talents to promote economic development both in the United States and abroad; an opportunity to find new sources of energy while preserving our global environment; and an opportunity to fulfill dreams of our own.

Fulfilling these opportunities for a growing world population will need more and more energy even as we strive to protect our environment. That energy will have to come from a variety of sources from fossil fuels to renewables and beyond. Our country, and our world, needs and will continue to need diverse and secure sources of energy. And just as we need a diverse supply of energy resources, our country needs diversity in its workforce.

Asian Americans in Energy, the Environment and Commerce (AE²C), along with other affinity organizations, is helping to fulfill the American Dream and encourage diversity in all its aspects by fostering opportunities to share knowledge and develop new perspectives on energy and the environment and how those affect global and local commerce. Membership in AE²C is not only an opportunity to engage in these discussions, but also an opportunity to be part of our ancestors and descendants legacy. It is an opportunity to fulfill "Our Dream".

Renew or extend your membership today at www.ae2c.org/membership

Mark Your Calendar for **Wednesday, November 13** from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
for the first meeting in our series

"Energy and the Environment in the U.S. and Asia -- What's Next?"

Board Members

Robert W. Gee
Margaret S. Y. Chu
Jenny Hou
Judi Rhee Alloway
Rasheq Rahman
Anand Subbiah
Jeremy S. Wu

Founding Members

Rosemary Abriam
Jonathan Cahn
Rachelle Chong
Margaret Chu
Bill Fang
Binky Garcia
Robert Gee
Jeanny Ho
Jenny Hou
S.T. Hsieh
Patricia McMurray
Jeanette Pablo
Sarav Periasamy
Jimmy Rhee
Judi Rhee Alloway
Colin S. Tam
Benjamin Wu
Jeremy Wu

Board Advisors

Bill Fang
Susan M. Hess

The Importance of Supplier Diversity

Diverse and small businesses are the fastest growing businesses in the United States. Supplier diversity is a proactive business practice that seeks to provide equal access to purchasing opportunities. It enables companies to develop new markets, new customers and new talent, and it promotes economic development.

As part of our supplier diversity engagement, Bill Fang, Advisor to the AE2C Board participated in the EEI's 30th Annual Utilities' Supplier Diversity Conference held on May 29-31 in Santa Clara and San Jose, CA. Throughout the conference, minority, women and disabled veteran suppliers were encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities offered by electric and gas utilities and their prime contractors. David Owens, EEI Executive Vice President, moderated a panel addressing critical issues facing electric, gas and telecommunications utilities. Other panelists included Sherrie Duncan, Manager, Supply Diversity, Duke Energy; Mary Jo Gaumer, President and CEO, CableLinks, Inc.; and Gun Shim, Vice President, Supply Chain, Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

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For more information on contacts at utilities looking for more supplier diversity, contact Mr. Fang at bill.fang@ae2c.org or 703-424-8070

Diversity and Flying Solo

A personal message from Bob Gee

As this second issue of our newsletter **Aurora** indicates, promoting diversity is one of the goals of AE²C and we are interested in working with companies to help achieve their diversity goals. But as a working professional for almost four decades, I know that diversity wasn't always so highly prized. For example, in 1992 I gave a speech as a Texas State official at a National Asian Pacific American Bar Association meeting in Dallas. In my keynote remarks, I shared the following anecdote:

"There once was a true story of a young Asian American attorney who took a job with the federal government determined to advance professionally solely on the basis of his individual merit. Consequently, he shied away from any Asian American community service organizations not only because he disliked the notion of being lumped together with an "ethnic" group, but because there simply was no need. But a funny thing happened to that attorney one day several years afterward. He was seeking to switch jobs from one employer to another and the interviewer actually said to him: 'You know, you're a minority attorney and we hired a minority attorney once in this office and well, you know things didn't work out. That attorney just couldn't cut it, so if we hire you I hope you understand we are going to have to keep an eye on you.' "

Then I told my audience that that "young attorney" was me.

My point then-- 21 years ago -- was that the members of the Asian American community stood much to gain by trying to find ways to advance together rather than trying to "fly solo." This point remains true today, and because of this searing personal experience, among others, AE²C was formed.

Message from the Board

Featuring: Margaret Chu, Vice President

Over the past several years, diversity seems to be the buzz word in the energy industry – workforce diversity, supplier diversity and diversity of energy supply are frequent topics at seminars and conferences. As Asian Americans, we are keenly aware of the importance diversity plays in the workplace. And as an Asian American woman, who was also a presidential appointee into the very non-diverse nuclear energy industry, I understand first-hand the challenges and opportunities diversity brings to our everyday lives.

Tackling these issues, providing insights and building bridges that span between the United States and the many countries and cultures that are Asia is the "raison d'être" of AE²C. Our goal for the rest of 2013 and for years to come is to provide opportunities to address these challenges through learning programs and dynamic discussions. I hope you will join us as we move forward together.