



Aurora

A newsletter for members and friends of AE²C

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Two Words for the Future: Clean Energy

United States Energy Secretary Dr. Ernest Moniz opened this year's AAPI Heritage month celebration with two words – ***clean energy***.

As the keynote speaker in the joint AE²C/DOE heritage month celebration event held May 15th in Washington D.C., Secretary Moniz propounded the importance of investing in clean energy, which can yield important dividends for the future: clean energy helps mitigate the risks associated with climate change; it supports our economy, fosters innovation and creates jobs; and it provides energy security for us, our children and our children's children. Secretary Moniz also talked about the important role Asian Americans have played over the years to help build our nation. He noted, however, that Asian Americans currently account for only 5% of the Federal workforce and stressed the need for the Government to do more to benefit from the talents of the community.

The event was well attended by AE²C members and guests, employees of The Department of Energy in Washington D.C. and around the country through live web access. Ms. Emily Duong, Minorities in Energy Initiative Ambassador and 2013 Pacific Miss Asian American, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. AE²C President, Bob Gee welcomed the audience and shared some background on AE²C. Dr. Andre Sayles, Principal Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity and Ms. Marilyn Madarang, vice president of the Energy Asian American Pacific Islander network also provided remarks.



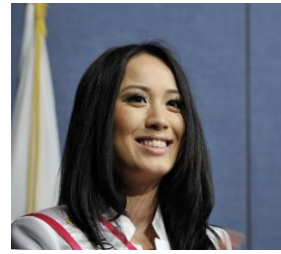


Building Bridges Instead of Walls

Consistent with the theme for AAPI Heritage month, “Diverse Leadership and Expanding Opportunity – An Imperative for America,” Dr. James Meng, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, closed the AAPI heritage month event with a presentation on how Asian Americans, and others inside and outside of government, could better their career prospects. He cited General Collin Powell’s definitions of a leader and reminded the audience to have confidence in oneself and be agile in one’s thoughts and actions. Dr. Meng talked about Asian American stereotypes and reiterated the need for the community to promote itself based on the knowledge and experience it brings to the workforce.

Dr. Meng’s three takeaways:

- Engage by understanding how cultural differences are valued in the workplace;
- Leverage opportunities for self-improvement; and
- Remember to build bridges instead of walls.



Photos from AAPI Heritage Month celebration with DOE. Pictured from top: Emily Duong, Margaret Chu, Rosie Abriam, Bob Gee

An introduction to AE²C

(A summary of Bob Gee’s AAPI Heritage Month Celebration remarks)

First, we seek to overcome barriers. The story of America is its growing diversity, and Asian Americans are part of this story. But there have been barriers. Sometimes they are subtle and sometimes they have been overt. We join the DOE to embrace a diverse workforce as a strength for our country, and not a weakness.

Second, we seek to open opportunities. Energy and environmental matters have a global reach. What happens here and in Asia affects the planet, both positively and negatively. The countries of Asia, together with the United States, must work together to meet the world’s needs for energy resources, while preserving our environment. As expressed in AE²C’s mission statement, we seek to “bridge the values, business practices, and cultures of Asia and the United States.”

Finally, we seek to give back. Many of us have had the benefit of years of experience, and we desire to assist those just now seeking to enter the workforce or to elevate others to higher positions. Only through our education and mentorship efforts can we be assured that the best and brightest from our communities attain their highest potential, to the betterment of our country and its successive generations.

Three years ago, a number of friends and strangers decided to form this organization to realize these ideals. Our work has only just begun, and we are heartened today by the support from the Department of Energy as we forge a bond in common purpose.

Thank you to our partners and sponsors for their ongoing support.

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Adding Value by Expanding Opportunity

A Panel entitled "Diversity in Leadership – Adding Value by Expanding Opportunity" discussed the Asian experience in the workplace and the importance of culture, political and business acumen, situational awareness, and knowing oneself and one's goals. Ms. Afroze Mohammad moderated the Panel and Panelists Dr. Margaret Chu, Ms. Rosie Abriam and Ms. Laura Clise discussed how they got started in their professional careers and provided insights based on their personal experiences. The Panelists shared their thoughts on how they added value throughout their careers in both government and industry, and stressed the important role of cultural values that underlies and guides career decisions and actions. Panelists also discussed how gender, language and education pose barriers as well as provide opportunities in life.

The overall message from the Panel was that turning challenges into opportunities is the key to success for Asian Americans and for all ethnicities and cultures.

Department of Labor Honors Chinese Railroad Workers

Between 1865 and 1869, approximately 12,000 Chinese immigrants were brought in by the Central Pacific Railroad Company to construct the western section of the transcontinental railroad. Their heroic efforts made the completion of the railroad possible, but their contributions had mostly been lost to history. On May 9, as the nation prepared to celebrate the 145th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad, Labor Secretary Mr. Thomas Perez bestowed a long overdue recognition to these Chinese immigrant laborers by inducting them into the Labor Hall of Honor. Despite dangerous working conditions and constant discrimination, these workers courageously took a stand to organize for fairer wages and safer working conditions. Their efforts not only stitched the nation together, but also advanced the American ideals of equal opportunity, collective organizing and good, safe jobs for all workers.

The Hall of Honor is located inside the North Plaza of DOL's Frances Perkins Building on 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The exhibit is open during government working hours. The portraits and brief biographies of the Inductees are included in the online section of the Hall of Fame.

(Article excerpts taken from the U.S. Department of Labor newsletter)

Growing professionally while growing a community: My AE²C journey

A message from AE²C Program Chair, Rasheq Rahman

Since attending the first AE²C conference two years ago, I've been fortunate to grow from an event attendee to a board member responsible for planning AE²C's events and programming. As a younger professional establishing my network in the energy industry, AE²C has been a powerful platform for me to network with senior professionals, learn industry trends and deepen my professional skills through service to a community that shares my passion for excellence, leadership development and the exchange of ideas on critical energy and environmental issues affecting individuals, businesses and governments around the world.

Beyond my own experience, growth has been on AE²C's agenda for 2014. We are establishing a presence in Texas with our first AE²C conference in Houston in September and another program in California later in the fall. We are growing our corporate donor base with support from industry as well as technology companies. But most importantly, we've grown our network to more than 350 professionals worldwide that are "at the intersection of energy, environment and commerce matters in the United States and abroad, bridging the values, business practices and cultures of Asia and the United States." As we continue to expand our network, events and activities, we hope you'll invest in AE²C by becoming a member at www.ae2c.org/joinus



AE²C Board Members and DOE MIE Ambassadors join Secretary Moniz
at AAPI Heritage Month Celebration