



**SEI LOCAL ACTIVITIES DIVISION
ANNUAL MEETING OF SEI CAPTERS/ STG GROUPS
OCTOBER 8 &9, 2010
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY**

At the invitation of Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) and on behalf of SENH, I attended the event in Jersey City, New Jersey on October 8 and 9, 2010. Approximately 30 people representing SEI local groups or ASCE structural technical groups within local branches and sections attended the meeting. There were a few from CE groups or other civil engineering related groups- interested in forming their local SEI group- who were also in attendance. SENH was the only state structural engineering association (NCSEA affiliates, who is not an SEI member) present this year.

Friday morning session was the general session which started with welcome, SEI mission, goals, and benefits. The morning sessions continued with: introduction of each groups, updates on SEI activities, update on SEI board of governors, break out sessions to discuss how SEI can help the local groups, Group presentation to discuss the findings and conclusions of the sessions, and summarization of priorities. Followings are some of the important updates of the SEI and board of governors activities:

- Benefits of becoming an SEI chapter which includes help with technical materials and speakers and help with media relation.
- All technical groups within ASCE are to change to Institutes.
- Board of governors is in the process of reviewing a draft of federal legislation to protect engineers when responding to disasters.

The Friday afternoon session was a tour to the ground zero and tour of the Freedom Tower construction. It started with a presentation by SOM (the architects of the project) at their New York office and followed by a walkthrough of the actual construction site. The construction site is fenced and heavily secured. According to the structural engineer of tower one (Freedom Tower), we were the first group of engineers to be granted a visit to this tower. At this time tower 7 is completed, tower 4 is under construction, and tower one (Freedom Tower) is nearly half (41st floor) completed. Once completed, the top of the antenna (mast) on top of the Freedom Tower will be at elevation 1776 feet. 85ksi reinforcement and 14000psi concrete was used in the construction of the tower. There will also be a museum focusing on the 9/11 event, outdoor park, and several more buildings/towers. The complexity of the project which is under a heavy security condition, over and near major operating underground transit system, and in the middle of one of the most congested areas in the world, is practically impossible to imagine. The structural design of Tower 4 is by the original structural engineer of the twin towers. Provisions and considerations for blast resistance and terrorist related events are incorporated in the design of the new towers.

On the second day of this gathering (Saturday) the main activity was a work shop for public relations training which included: the role of civil engineers as public coordinators, what is considered news and how to have better media coverage, yes and no's of News Releases, How to make our point with the media, and a mock interview with media. The day ended with conclusions and assessment of the accomplishments and discussions for the future. A possible location for next year's gathering is New Orleans.

In my opinion there is some advantage in staying in close contact with SEI since it represents a large number of structural engineers who are ASCE members. I recommend continued attendance at the SEI - Local Activities Division annual meeting. If anyone is interested in more details, I would be happy to discuss the details of the meeting further and share any of the materials obtained during this event. The work shop materials may be a valuable tool and information to our PR committee and I would be glad to share with the committee if interested.

SEI 2010 Structures Congress in Orlando was a joint event with AISC/NASCC and was considered a success by SEI, however, ASCE/SEI have decided to hold the 2011 structures Congress independent from NASCC. It will be in Las Vegas in April 2011.

Submitted by Alex Azodi, SENH and ASCE member and delegate to SEI.

Please contact Alex Azodi if you have any questions or comments at alex-omega@tds.net.