

Masters Series



Advancing Your Career: Perspectives from Industry Entrepreneurs

Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 6:00pm-8:00pm

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

The Asian American Architects/Engineers Association (AAa/e) is proud to present our Spring 2016 Master Series: **Advancing Your Career: Perspectives from Industry Entrepreneurs**

The Master Series provides "...a platform for empowering professionals working in the built environment in personal and professional growth, business development and networking, and leadership in our community." (AAa/e Mission Statement)

You have earned your degree, obtained licensure, and paid your dues for years or even decades, building your bosses' businesses. Now, you're ready to strike out on your own! Owning your own businesses is daunting, but you can do it, AND succeed! AEC industry entrepreneurs will share the opportunities they encountered, decisions they made, actions they took, and challenges they overcame during the course of their careers to become the successful business owners they are today. Come learn, first-hand, how they made it!

Confirmed Panelists:



Rubina Chaudhary, President / Founder, MARRS Services, Inc.

Rubina Chaudhary is the founder and president of MARRS Services, Inc., which specializes in construction management, utilities engineering, and environmental compliance services for infrastructure, transportation, and aviation projects. A certified DBE, MBE, WBE, and SBE, MARRS has grown to over 60 staff and holds multiple contracts with California public agencies since its founding in 1989. A firm believer in mentoring others, Ms. Chaudhary also founded Family Management Matters (FMM), a non-profit dedicated to strengthening the family unit by providing tools for educational, financial, wellness and personal development. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the MTA's Transportation Business Advisory Council (TBAC), ACEC-Los Angeles, trustee of ACEC-CA Scholarship Foundation, and the champion for CalSOP and the "Become an Engineer" (BAE) campaign, which introduces high school students to career possibilities in engineering and related fields. The ACEC recently approved the BAE campaign to become a statewide program.



Saiful Islam, PhD, SE, Founding Principal, Saiful Bouquet

An internationally recognized and published seismic design expert, Dr. Saiful Islam is the founding principal of Saiful Bouquet (SBI). Since its founding in 1997, SBI continues to be one of the fastest growing structural consulting firms in California, serving a wide range of Institutional, Residential, Healthcare, Commercial, Hospitality, Aviation, Civic/Justice, Retail, and Historic projects all over the world. The certified SBE and MBE is headquartered in Pasadena, with offices in Orange County and San Diego. Providing collaborative and cost-conscious design solutions, SBI has received over 35 awards for its creative and innovative structural design. Dr. Islam obtained his Masters and Ph.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins University and completed post-doctoral research at Cornell University. Since 1989, Dr. Islam has led the design of over \$17 billion in new building construction worldwide, including: Metropolis, LA City Center, Westfield Century City and LAX Midfield Satellite Concourse. Dr. Islam is also very active in charity work.



Virgil C. Aoanan, PE, SE, QSD, CEO and Principal, VCA Engineers, Inc.

Virgil C. Aoanan is CEO and principal of VCA Engineers, Inc., a certified MBE, DBE, and SBE. A licensed Civil and Structural Engineer in the State of California, Mr. Aoanan earned his B.S. Engineering from the University of Hawaii, and obtained his CA Civil Engineer license in 1983, and CA Structural Engineer license in 1994. His more than 30 years of civil and structural planning, design, management, and construction encompasses a wide range of aviation, municipal, transportation, commercial, manufacturing, aerospace, and military facilities. He has prepared and executed engineering construction documents (plans, specifications, calculations, requisitions, contracts) in multiple capacities as project manager, project engineer, lead engineer, design engineer, and construction engineer in both the civil and structural disciplines. His core value, "to be the best at whatever field you are engaged in", has made him the successful person that he is today. With his contagious smile, he brims with a witty sense of humor and pours every effort in whatever he does.



David S. Honda

David S. Honda is the president of D.S. Honda Construction, Inc., which currently focuses on the development of office buildings, multi-family, medical facilities, and mixed-use transit-hubs. Since its founding in 1980, Mr. Honda's company has completed notable projects such as the Upjohn Company, Director's Guild of America, Japanese American National Museum Barracks Restoration, and the Honda Financial Centre, which received the Accommodation Award from the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. Previously, Mr. Honda was the co-founding CEO of Spacemakers, Inc., which completed the Peterson Art Galleries, Cecil Gee, Bottega Veneta, and Huntington Sheraton Hotel Historic Renovation in Pasadena. In addition to his philanthropic community leadership, Mr. Honda is partnering with emerging Pacific Rim governments to guide them through environmentally-responsible development, transforming their countries with more attractive investment opportunities and labor markets that feature eco-friendly energy platforms, waste management solutions, and construction techniques.

Moderator:



Keith Kajiya, Vice President, PM/CM Area Business Unit Leader, Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, AECOM

Keith Kajiya manages AECOM's PM/CM practice in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. Over his 30-plus year career, Keith has successfully managed more than \$8 billion of capital projects through all phases of project implementation, from planning through commissioning. He has personally administered more than \$150 million of professional services contracts during the past 10 years, including most recently, four large multi-funded capital programs including a California OSHPD Hospital Facility, two K-12 School Districts and a Wastewater Capital Improvement Program. Keith's specialty lies in establishing integrated client teams; developing program management plans, funding strategies, and CM procedures; conducting special management studies; and analyzing construction claims. Keith serves on the Professional Development Committee of the AAa/e Board of Directors.

Agenda:

5:00 – 6:00 PM: Registration & Refreshments

6:00 – 7:30 PM: Panelist Presentations

7:30 – 8:00 PM: Q&A

Wraps, Fruit, Snacks and Beverages will be Served

Free Parking

Free to AAa/e Members (must register)

Non-Member Price: \$45

(On-site Registration Fee for Members & Non-members: Add \$15)

Special Sponsor Opportunity: \$275.00 – includes 2 AAa/e Annual Memberships

Please contact Eric Halm at ehalm@bernards.com for details

Become a member today to take advantage of this Free membership event!

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Associate Membership: \$75.00 | General Membership: \$125.00 | Student Memberships: \$8.00

Corporate Membership: \$1,500.00

Register Now!

Please Note: Registration for this event closes at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 24, 2016. Cancellations will not be accepted after this time and requests for seating after this time cannot be guaranteed. Limited on-site registrations will be available on a first-come, first served basis, unless the event sells out. On-site registrations or changes to existing reservations made after close of registration will be charged a \$15 on-site fee. Changes from member to non-member attendance will require the additional non-member price of \$45.