

## EVENTS

# Asian American Engineer of the Year 2012

## AAEOY Award Celebration in Albuquerque, New Mexico



From the 2012 AAEOY  
Executive Committee, New Mexico

The 2012 AAEOY Executive Committee hosted the Eleventh Asian American Engineer of the Year (AAEOY) Award celebration on March 2nd and 3rd in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The twoday event culminated in the Award ceremony on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012 at the Albuquerque Marriott Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This annual National Engineers Week event was managed by the New Mexico Chapter of the Chinese Institute of Engineers (CIE-USA).

The AAEOY Award is given to outstanding American scientists, engineers and corporate leaders with Asian ethnicity in recognition of their exceptional contributions in their fields of expertise and to the communities. This year the AAEOY also celebrates the achievements of two outstanding Asian Americans of global stature and influence with "Distinguished Awards" for serving as role models and a source of inspiration for Asian American engineers and scientists. Dr. Eliot Fang, the Chair of the 2012 Asian American Engineer of the Year (AAEOY) Executive Committee and Dr. Yung Sung Cheng, CIE-USA National Chair orchestrated this year's event with a completely new format.

The sponsors of 2012 AAEOY are Lockheed Martin, Sandia National Laboratories, Boeing, Intel, IBM, Northrop Grumman, Texas Instruments, and NASA Glenn Research Center. In addition, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Corning, Emcore, and National Auto Parts provide financial support as 2012 AAEOY

event supporters. U.S. Armed Forces participants include the Department of Defense, U.S. NAVY and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

There were several functions in conjunction with the two-day 2012 AAEOY Award celebration. The Awardees and sponsor representatives toured Sandia National Laboratories' solar and radiation sciences facilities in the morning of March 2; the pre-award dinner that evening at the Albuquerque International Balloon Museum provided a unique venue for an informal gathering of the participants of the 21012 AAEOY celebrations.

In the morning of March 3, Dr. Jeff Brinker, Sandia National Laboratories Fellow and Distinguished and Regent's Professor of University of New Mexico presented a special technical seminar, Nanotechnology for cancer



*Dr. Jeff Brinker*

treatment: A new frontier for materials science research, concerning cancer treatment using nanotechnologies for targeted drug delivery. Following the seminar, representatives from the sponsors and participants also had a chance to showcase their company/organization at information booths and held discussions of career opportunities at their presentations.

A fully narrated cultural tour took the participants to the National Atomic Museum, the

Albuquerque old town then finished up at the famous Indian Pueblo Cultural Center with dance performance from Zuni Pueblo and authentic New Mexico food for lunch. The culture tour received compliment as a wonderful potpourri of many aspects of New Mexico.

The AAEOY Award ceremony in the evening started with a VIP reception for over 180 guests, followed with the AAEOY banquet for over 430 guests. The Ceremony opened with a breath taking lion dance that captivated all the audience, followed by the University of New Mexico ROTC Navy and Marine Corps Color Guard presenting the colors and Dr. Linda Hao sang the national anthem.

After the welcome remarks by Dr. Eliot Fang, a few excerpts from congratulatory letters from the Governor of New Mexico, Mayor of Albuquerque, Congressional Delegates from New Mexico, Asian American political figures and President Obama’s letter on E-Week celebration were presented by the co-emcees Dr. Cliff Ho and Ms. Anita Wong.

The keynote speaker at the banquet was Dr. Paul Hommert, the President and Laboratories Director of Sandia National Laboratories; he discussed the challenges our nation faces today and the role of science and engineering in helping to solve them. In particular, Dr. Hommert emphasized the importance to continue building our science and engineering basis, and to tap into a diverse, highly qualified, and talented pool of candidates who will become our workforce of tomorrow. He also said Asian Americans have helped build our country and have played successful roles in all facets of American life, “As families, you have instilled in your children a deep sense of respect for



*Dr. Paul Hommert, the President and Laboratories Director of Sandia National Laboratories*

improving the mind through learning, probing the boundaries of knowledge... along with a deep sense of civic duty and a wider framework that makes for well-rounded human beings. Our nation has been a direct beneficiary of your efforts.”

The recipient for the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award was Dr. Alice S. Huang of California Institute of Technology for her original discoveries in virology; prominent leadership in medicine, science, education and professional societies; and the advocacy for women and minorities in science.



*Dr. Alice S. Huang of California Institute of Technology*

Dr. Venkatesh “Venky” Narayanamurti of Harvard University received the 2012 Distinguished Science & Technology Award for developing and advancing the field of phonon optics and nanostructured



*Dr. Venkatesh “Venky” Narayanamurti of Harvard University*

semiconductor as well as his visionary leadership, mentoring and entrepreneurial spirit in science & technology.

The 2012 AAEOY Annual Awards consist of two award categories: Asian American Executive of the Year Award and Asian American Engineer of the Year Award.

The 2012 AAEOY award ceremony was designed as a single production. Short entertainment segments between the three award presentation sections unified by the New Mexico Centennial celebration provided a background theme which was followed throughout the evening. The award presentation was by organization rather than by awardee’s last name

alphabetically. Following a short introductory video of a company, the Awardees from the company were then introduced by the organization/company nominator and called to the stage in turn to receive the trophy from AAEOY Chair, Co-chair and deliver an acceptance speech. This format not only celebrates the individual achievements of each awardee but also highlights each company/organization as an entity.

The achievements of the 2012 AAEOY awardees are truly extraordinary. The scales of their work range from Nano to Macro to geological, touching the depth of ocean and penetrating the outer space. The applications include consumer electronics, computational engineering and technology, space exploration and technology, revolutions in communication, data and image transmission, radar and antenna technology, environmental stewardship, national defense and nuclear de terrence. The contributions of the distinguished awardees at the intersections of science and national and global policy set inspiring examples for all the attendees.

Someone remarked during the two-day event: we all know the saying everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; you and I, no matter what our heritages are, we are all Asian Americans

during this 2012 AAEOY celebration and we are all very proud to be Asian Americans because of the accomplishments of the Awardees.

During the special dessert break at the two and half hours award presentations, a video of the ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE specially assembled for the 2012 AAEOY celebration was shown. It traced the Asian immigrant experience from the hardship of early immigrants of late 1800's, the limitations imposed by exclusion acts through WWII to a celebration of contemporary Asian American achievements. The video touched a deep core in all the attendees and put the 2012 AAEOY celebration in a historical context. An energizing Flamenco dance performance following the video showcased the one hundred years statehood of New Mexico and the culture diversity of New Mexico.

The evening was concluded by Dr. Yung Sung Cheng, Chair of the National Council of the Chinese Institute of Engineers, USA who announced that next year's AAEOY celebration and banquet will be hosted by the CIE-USA Dallas/Fort-Worth Chapter. With the nod to New Mexico cultural heritage a mariachi band serenaded the audiences to conclude this year's successful AAEOY award ceremony.

Photographs, Citation of Accomplishments and biographies of all Awardees can be found through: [http:// www.aaeoy2012.org/awardees.html](http://www.aaeoy2012.org/awardees.html).