

Chapter Reports

ACI American University of Sharjah Student Chapter Receives Back-to-Back Outstanding Awards

The ACI American University of Sharjah Student Chapter in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), received the ACI Outstanding Student Chapter Award for 2024. This is the second consecutive year that the Student Chapter has received this award. This award validates the team's dedication, innovative mindset, and leadership within the concrete industry. The Student Chapter has worked to distinguish itself by bridging the gap between theoretical academic knowledge and practical application and cultivating a dynamic learning environment by participating in diverse workshops and high-level competitions.

By engaging in hands-on sessions, covering topics such as sustainable concrete design and new construction materials throughout the past year, members were able to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world challenges. These competitions provided a platform for students to demonstrate their technical skills and leadership. Furthermore, the chapter emphasized professional development through active participation in industry conferences and seminars. These events allowed students to connect with established professionals and stay informed of the latest trends and innovations in construction technology. With continued support from faculty and industry professionals, the Student Chapter remains dedicated to helping lead the future of concrete engineering in the UAE and beyond.



Members of the ACI American University of Sharjah Student Chapter participated in industry conferences and seminars throughout the year

ACI CSU Professional Development Panel

The ACI California State University – Chico (CSU) Student Chapter in Chico, CA, USA, hosted a professional development panel featuring six industry presenters, four of whom are ACI CSU Student Chapter alumni. The purpose of this event was to provide students with firsthand insight into

professional life, practical expectations within the concrete industry, and strategies to strengthen their competitiveness in the job market.

Throughout the event, attendees gained valuable insider knowledge and had the opportunity to connect with the presenters on a personal and professional level. Key takeaways included the importance of maintaining an open mindset, embracing continuous learning, and pursuing every opportunity that contributes to growth. Students left the panel with a clearer understanding of industry expectations, expanded professional networks, and a renewed motivation to pursue advanced career possibilities within the concrete and construction fields.



ACI CSU Student Chapter Professional Development Panel

ACI FIC-UANL Hosts ENLACE 2025

Encuentro Latinoamericano de Capítulos Estudiantiles del ACI 2025 (ENLACE 2025) was hosted by the ACI Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León – Facultad de Ingeniería Civil (FIC-UANL) Student Chapter, from September 24-27, 2025, in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, in coordination with the ACI Northeast Mexico Chapter.

The event brought together more than 600 students, professors, and industry professionals from across Latin America. The technical program featured keynote lectures delivered by experts, including Maria Juenger, ACI President, Frederick Grubbe, ACI Executive Vice President, Gerard Moulzolf, the 2025 International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) President, and Eric Hauth, ICRI Executive Director. These presentations addressed critical topics related to sustainability, durability, resilience, and the future of concrete engineering. The academic agenda was strengthened through specialized workshops and technical visits to infrastructure projects, laboratories, and industrial facilities in the Monterrey metropolitan area.

The Lightweight Fiber-Reinforced Concrete Cylinder Competition, held in honor of ACI Honorary Member

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Ramón L. Carrasquillo and sponsored by Holcim México, took place during the event. The competition brought together 48 student teams who demonstrated a high level of technical rigor through the design, testing, and optimization of lightweight fiber-reinforced concrete mixtures aimed to achieve maximum structural efficiency. This competition, together with the conferences, workshops, panels, and technical visits, reflected ENLACE 2025's commitment to strengthening technical excellence, leadership, and collaboration among future professionals.

ACI URP Activities

The ACI Universidad Ricardo Palma (URP) Student Chapter in Lima, Peru, participated in multiple activities in October and November 2025. The Student Chapter hosted an integration event to welcome new members and encourage students to get to know one another better. New members were given a guided tour of the university's concrete technology laboratory to familiarize them with the equipment and concrete tests.

The ACI URP Student Chapter also continued working on a project building concrete kitchens for community members. Several elements of the kitchens have been made. A virtual meeting was held with all Student Chapter members to set dates to create concrete stoves for the project.

The students performed high strength concrete tests to be showcased during URP's Civil Engineering Day. The Student Chapter also established a partnership with a local academy offering AECODE courses with the aim of providing more opportunities for members and to strengthen their knowledge. AECODE is a series of programs covering building information modeling (BIM), artificial intelligence (AI), and automation, designed to be applied to projects in the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) industries.



ACI URP Student Chapter integration event

ACI-SC Annual Seminar 2025 and 40-Year Anniversary Gala Dinner

On November 13, 2025, the ACI Singapore Chapter (ACI-SC) hosted its annual seminar, "Concrete Revolution: Building Synergy in Global Technology and Practice," at the Furama City Centre hotel in Singapore. In celebration of ACI-SC's 40th anniversary, a Gala Dinner was held at the same venue after the seminar. This seminar, supported by 32 sponsors and co-organizers, drew a record-breaking attendance of more than 300 participants and featured 12 keynote speakers from around the world. The seminar's theme, Building Responsibility and Collective Momentum Through Shared Professionalism, underscored the importance of unity and shared expertise in driving industry progress. The event served as a platform for knowledge exchange, professional networking, and the sharing of innovative ideas.

The seminar was Chaired by Sook Fun Wong, Senior Lecturer at Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore, and Board Director of ACI-SC. Thanabal Kaliannan, Group Director and Commissioner of Building Control and Group Director at the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), was the Guest of Honor. In his address, he highlighted the pivotal role of concrete technology in advancing sustainable construction practices. He shared insights on the challenges and opportunities in balancing technological advancements with climate resilience and sustainability goals, including the need for low-carbon concrete products.

Tao Nengfu, ACI-SC President, delivered a welcome address. In his opening remarks, he expressed gratitude to all participants, including the Guest of Honor, keynote speakers, sponsors, and delegates. He highlighted the importance of pursuing innovative solutions to enhance productivity and efficiency in the construction industry, and he also reflected on ACI-SC's achievements over the past year, including two successful study tours in China.

The seminar featured four technical sessions, each focusing on transformative trends in construction productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. As a part of the event, winners were announced for the Concrete Plaque/Souvenir Competition. This annual concrete competition seeks to facilitate the progress of the local concrete industry toward high-performance and sustainable concrete technology. The competition is open to individuals, tertiary institutes, companies, and organizations both domestically and abroad. The Concrete Plaque/Souvenir Competition 2025, chaired by a distinguished panel of experts, challenged participants to develop innovative and sustainable concrete solutions. The competition attracted 34 teams, including eight teams from China, one from Malaysia, one from India, and 14 from Singapore.

Participants submitted a conceptual project detail to represent the 40-year anniversary celebrations of ACI-SC with their proposed Concrete Plaque/Souvenir ideas and typical models for preliminary screeding. After thorough evaluation by the judging panel, 14 teams were selected for the final competition. They were then evaluated on their final delivered Concrete Plaque/Souvenir products, and their corresponding 15-minute presentations and Q&A sessions with the judges. After 3 months of rigorous evaluation, the top 10 teams (five teams from the Open Category and five teams from the Student Category) were recognized with monetary awards.

Celebrations at the 40-Year Anniversary Gala Dinner

For four decades, the ACI Singapore Chapter has advanced knowledge, innovation, and professional connections in concrete technology and structural engineering. The Gala Dinner was held to commemorate member contributions, celebrate achievements, and inspire collaboration to drive excellence and sustainability. The event saw a total attendance of 310 participants. Moving forward, the Chapter remains committed to knowledge exchange, professional growth, and global collaboration in building a resilient future. During the Gala Dinner, introductory remarks were delivered by Zhu Liu, ACI Director, APAC Region, and Professor Shi Caijun, President of the Asian Concrete Federation (ACF) and Professor at Hunan University, Chagsha, Hunan, China.

The Annual Seminar 2025 and Gala Dinner served as a catalyst for new ideas and partnerships, reinforcing ACI-SC's commitment to advancing concrete technologies in Singapore

and beyond. In his closing speech, Lu Jinping, Immediate Past President of ACI-SC, commended the spirit of collaboration and innovation displayed throughout the event. He thanked all delegates, speakers, sponsors, and attendees for their invaluable contributions.



Members of the ACI Singapore Chapter at the Annual Seminar 2025



ACI-SC 40-Year Anniversary Gala Dinner

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