



Aurora

A newsletter for members and friends of AE²C

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Winter 2019

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An Energized 2019 – the year in review!

Wisdom, initiative and energy. These are the characteristics of the 2019 Chinese New Year sign of the pig, and apparently the characteristics of AE2C in 2019 as well!

AE2C kicked off the year participating in a Celebration for the Asian American and Pacific Islander Members of the 116th Congress hosted by *APIAVote* and a coalition of 45 AAPI community organizations and leaders. AE2C leaders also participated in stakeholder outreach meetings with the US Department of Energy and its new initiative *Equity and Energy*. This new initiative was developed to bolster minority contracting with the DOE and to increase its network in working with the private sector. The AAPI stakeholder meeting featured speakers from various DOE offices describing their work and included remarks by AE2C's founding member Jimmy Rhee on behalf of the State of Maryland. We look forward to continuing this relationship through 2020.

AE2C continued its event series – *Energizing the Future* – in April with a panel discussion co-hosted by the World Bank Group. *Emerging Issues in the Transformation of Renewable Energy Systems in the US and Asia* featured an exciting discussion addressing finance and deployment issues resulting from the increasing penetration of renewable energy systems both in the US and around the world. The international panel of experts shared their perspectives on energy storage solutions, electricity tariffs and emission credits. They also discussed how energy markets are being transformed by technology innovation, new pricing regimes, market dynamics and shifting national and global policy.

AE2C's second panel discussion took place in October in partnership with the Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute. The expert panel spoke about how the future electric power grid will continue to serve as vital role, much as it does today, the "experience of electric power" is changing rapidly with the rapid deployment of distributed energy resources and smart energy devices. They also brought to light new business models and policy changes that will impact how energy will be bought, sold, used and stored by end customers and utilities alike. (continued on Page 2)

Wishing Happy Holidays to our members and friends.

We look forward to seeing you in 2020 for another energizing year!

Happy Holidays

from AE2C President, Bob Gee

We are proud that this year the number of AE2C member-oriented activities in Washington grew significantly, thus giving our members and other energy and environment professionals more opportunities to learn from and interact with one another. We increasingly strive to provide value to our members, so we encourage those who have not yet joined AE2C to please do so to be able to take advantage of what our membership offers.

I want to welcome to our leadership team Jeanette Pablo who was elected our new Vice President. Jeanette was not a stranger to the AE2C family as she was one of our Founding Members. A seasoned climate and energy policy expert, Jeanette has been a law firm attorney, a federal and state government relations professional, a member of DOE senior management, and is currently General Counsel and Senior VP for a major E & E non-profit. Even with her current obligations, she has graciously agreed to assume AE2C leadership responsibilities, and we are exceedingly fortunate to have her on board. You will see and hear more from Jeanette in the future!

The year 2020 will see more activities not only in Washington, but also at our Texas chapters in Houston/Austin and in Boston, so please stay tuned.

Happy holidays to all!

Energized 2019 (Continued)

In addition to these two invigorating panel discussions, we added several new activities to our 2019 calendar. First, we participated in the Environmental Protection Agency's AAPI Heritage Month celebration with two of our Board members – Jeanette Pablo and Rasheq Rahman as featured speakers. Second, we hosted two "mixers" giving AE2C members and friends an opportunity to engage with other new and existing members and discover what AE2C has to offer. Third, we initiated discussions to expand our chapter network to include Boston, Mass. Stay tuned for more news about that and upcoming chapter activities in Texas in early 2020.

It was quite a year filled with opportunities to share knowledge, create new initiatives and engage in lively discussions. Now we are looking ahead to 2020 and the many opportunities that lay ahead.

Energizing the Future – What's in Store in 2020

We are looking forward to energizing 2020 by bringing you a variety of activities. Please mark your calendars with the following dates and be sure to look at your inbox for details. You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter @ae2c to keep the energy and environment discussions going in between events.

- January 8 (TBC)– New Year Mixer
- February 6 – Decarbonization at John Hopkins SAIS
- May – Smart Cities at Pepco Gallery
- June – Summer kickoff Mixer
- September – Regulations and Tariffs on Renewables at Dentons
- November – Project Financing at the World Bank

Thank you!

AE2C could not be successful without our sponsors and energizing speakers.