Adam W. Hapij, P.E., M.AEI, M.ASCE
AEI President

It is my honor to serve as the President of the Architectural Engineering Institute (AEI) of ASCE for 2014-2015. I would like to thank Mark McAfee for his service and dedication to AEI in his year as President of AEI during 2013-2014, and his countless years of support of numerous AEI initiatives. I would also like to express my gratitude to the AEI Board of Governors (BoG) for their leadership and for continuing to oversee the Institute; this healthy diverse board induces organic growth of our organization. I would like to thank Verna Jameson, who has been AEI’s Administrator for 6 years and a staunch supporter of the AEI cause. Furthermore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to AEI’s Manager, Carol Kurlancheek, who has been instrumental in making AEI operations more systematic and organized.

AEI was created in a marriage of academia and industry back in 1998; the Architectural Engineering Division (AED) of ASCE and the National Society of Architectural Engineering (NSAE) were joined to create AEI. Sixteen years later, the institute is growing, building on the strength of its founding fathers and predecessors. This diverse make-up of AEI offers unique opportunities for collaboration between the two spheres of the professional world. One of the important assets of AEI, which resulted from the creation of AEI, was the student membership. The unique membership profile of both professionals and students offers distinct opportunities for professionals in industry and academia to directly interact with students, identifying potential candidates for employment and scholarship. As a natural extension of this model, the interaction of AEI’s Academic Council and Executive Council is the only national forum that fosters a direct dialogue between AE industry leaders and department chairs of ABET accredited AE undergraduate programs.

AEI is the institute that is best suited to discuss building-related design, construction and operations issues within a multidisciplinary framework. One of the areas that has recently caught my attention is life cycle costs of buildings. Although the cost of design and construction of buildings has been generally increasing at pace with inflation, the building industry needs to reevaluate where new efficiencies may be reaped and how design and construction decisions could be reformulated to consider the life cycle of buildings. As more and more buildings are approaching and exceeding their lifespans, the building community would be well served if critical insight and guidance could be provided on reduction of operational life cycle costs without an increase in initial capital expenditure.

Along these lines, the AEI Board of Governors is championing the AEI Build Initiative. This initiative will offer AEI members a new resource of innovative research, new advancements, and best practices in key focus areas, which are most critical to the advancement of design, construction and maintenance of integrated buildings. Special publications, workshops, and
webinars are some of the means that the Board is envisioning to promote critical thinking in these focus areas. Stay tuned.

Overall, AEI has had a very productive year. Following are some of the highlights of 2014:

- **New publications**
  - Curtain Wall Primer

- **New Webinars of 2014**
  - Understanding Window & Door Product Approval Evaluations: Their Applications & Limitations
  - Hurricane Resistant Glazing Systems: How to Ensure Installation of a Safe and Secure Building Envelope
  - Green Roof Design Guidelines
  - Seismic Design of Curtain Wall Systems

- **Other new developments**
  - Updated AEI Bylaws for 2015
  - Establishment of the AEI Forum – held on alternate years to the professional conference

Based on the increased momentum developed within the ranks of AEI, here are some of the upcoming initiatives/events scheduled for 2015:

- **Special Section in the Journal of Architectural Engineering on Housing and Residential Building Construction** (December)
- **Building Security Rating System Manual of Practice - Publication**
- **Façade Access Design Guideline - Publication**
- **October 2014 - AEI Networking Event in Chicago**
- **2015 AEI Conference in Milwaukee – Birth and Life of the Integrated Building**
  - AEI Student Competition
  - Professional Project Awards
- **Publication of the “History of the Formation of AEI”**

AEI is actively planning the 2015 Professional Conference at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, titled “Birth and Life of the Integrated Building.” Excellent technical papers have been submitted and a superb collection of presentations is slated to be delivered. AEI’s conference organizing committees have been working intensely to make this conference a success. I await to see all of you in Wisconsin between March 24-27, 2015, to engage in spirited dialogue and to exchange new ideas on integrated buildings.