



Panel discussion during the Quiet Pavements symposium.

Highlights of AAPT's 80th Annual Meeting

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The Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists (AAPT) was established January 17, 1924, in Chicago, Illinois. In the beginning, there were only 19 charter members. However, AAPT has since grown to exceed 1,000 members from all parts of the world. The initial purpose of the Association was for the advancement of asphalt paving technology. Today, its purpose is defined by four main objectives:

- To advance asphalt paving technology;
- To encourage communication among those charged with technical responsibility for the production and laying of asphalt pavements, with production of materials or with construction or construction equipment;
- To serve as a central point for exchange of ideas related to the technology of asphalt paving; and
- To conduct, encourage and collate research in the asphalt paving industry.

One of the primary means of achieving these objectives is through the publication of the AAPT Journal. With its compilation of reports on state-of-the-art technologies and practices, the Journal is regarded as one of the premier sources of literature for the asphalt paving industry. The annual publication began in 1928 and Volume 74 will be published this year. Another yearly AAPT event is the Annual Meeting. Typically held in March, this meeting serves as a forum for technical presentations, symposiums and workshops.

The 80th Annual Meeting of the AAPT was held March 6-9, 2005, in Long Beach, California. With more than 260 registered attendees from 17 countries around the world, this year's meeting represented the highest attendance in the past three years. With a common interest in research of materials and methods, the attendees spanned a broad spectrum of the industry, reaching materials suppliers, consultants, contractors, universities, government agencies and other researchers. Some of the highlights of the meeting were:

- A Government Engineers' Forum was held on Sunday, March 6. Discussion topics included a new Federal Highway Administration initiative for QC/QA, and integration of Superpave mix design with new mechanistic-empirical pavement design.
- The technical presentations included 23 papers. These were grouped into five categories:
 1. Workshop Session;
 2. Binder Characteristics and Evaluation;
 3. Mechanistic-Empirical Evaluation of Models;
 4. Field Verification of Fatigue and Permanent Deformation Models; and
 5. Performance Modeling.
- A symposium titled *Developments in Quiet HMA Pavements* was held.

Another highlight of the meeting for the Asphalt Institute (AI) came during the meeting's banquet. AAPT conferred awards of Honorary Membership on former AI Director of Research (and AI Roll of Honor Recipient) Vyt Puzinauskas and former AI Member Representative (and AI Distinguished Service Award Recipient) Larry Santucci. Honorary membership is the highest award conferred by AAPT on an individual. In their acceptance speeches, both Puzinauskas and Santucci noted the role of the Asphalt Institute in their careers.

Next year's meeting is in Savannah, Georgia, March 27-29, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. ▲