



PV technologies and how to grow better citrus are topics at March 18 meeting

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Dr Peter Williams, Chief Technology Officer for IBM’s Big Green Innovations incubator, whose role is to create environmentally focused businesses for IBM, will be this meeting’s presenter. He will be speaking on how IBM assembles, maintains and develops the portfolio of businesses included, and technologies used. His particular focus areas has been PV technologies; developing green house gas reduction solutions and services; and most intensively, water management solutions, covering entire water resources (for example entire rivers or aquifers), utility infrastructures, and enterprise water management.

Dr Williams holds the title of IBM Distinguished Engineer. By background, he is a management consultant with well over 20 years experience of bringing technology and business issues together to develop novel solutions and business models. A native of the UK, he has lived in California since 1999, and is married with three children. His PhD was awarded by the School of Management at the University of Bath, England, in 1986.

Soil and Topography Information uses off the shelf and proprietary technology and software to produce the most precise soil information available today. Our current efforts are to provide more precise soil information and recommendations to assist growers produce more uniform and higher yields and better quality agricultural products. We have also been selected to demonstrate the use of our Soil Information System (SISTM) to evaluate the integrity of levees in the southern US. This project is in cooperation with Mississippi State University and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Currently viticulturist/plant physiologist with Soil and Topography Information, LLC (STI). Recently retired from Department Chair – Department of Viticulture and Enology; Director – Viticulture and Enology Research Center, California State University, Fresno. Twenty one years at Washington State University before joining CSUF.

Upcoming Irrigation Seminar series

Irrigation System Spring Cleaning and Maintenance March 10, 2010

Spring is the time for many activities on the farm including irrigation system cleaning and maintenance. Growers will be shown proper procedures to ready their irrigation systems for the long, hot summer season. A handy checklist for proper maintenance and repair to keep irrigation systems working in peak performance will be provided. Field demonstrations of proper maintenance will include flushing drip lines, keeping filter stations in good working order and checking uniformity will be demonstrated in a hands-on approach.

Water Sources: Wells and Surface Water April 14, 2010

Using water supplies effectively are the starting point to an efficient system irrigation. This workshop will cover basic well drilling construction and techniques, well screens, developing the well, water treatment, pressure bowls vs. well/booster combinations and setting up an irrigation system from a canal or reservoir, filtration, and matching supply to engineered systems.

International Center for Water Technology to hold Water Technology Conference May 11-12, 2010

Call for Submissions

The International Center for Water Technology invites attendees to submit abstracts for in person and poster presentations for the Water Technology Conference to be held Wednesday May 12, 2010 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Clovis, California, USA. We encourage industry professionals, scientists, students, organizations and other involved water irrigation and technology issues and research individuals to present in three topic areas: Ag Water Issues, Urban Water Issues and Regional Water Issues. Several hundred- researchers, policy makers, stakeholders- representing non-governmental organizations, public and private institutions, and those working in water technology and research are expected to attend this conference.

Presentations will be 15 minutes long plus a 5-minute question and answer period. Presenters will receive a complimentary full conference registration.

Poster presentations will be displayed during the entire conference. Poster presenters must be present for a 2-hour interactive session that will be held in conjunction with the Tuesday afternoon reception. Poster presenters will also receive a complimentary full conference registration.

Abstract Submission Deadline: March 8, 2010

Click on the following link to find out more information regarding the conference or the abstract submittals. <http://www.icwt.net/WTC/abstracts.htm>



Conference Details

The Water Technology Conference will be held on May 11th-12th with the cost of attendance per individual being \$95 and the fees for the sponsorship are set at \$750. All individuals planning to attend have until a week before the event to purchase their ticket while all sponsorship fees must be paid by Feb. 28th. If you have any questions regarding the conference or would like to submit an abstract, e-mail Laura Ramos at lramos@csufresno.edu.

The 80/20 Program

The Federal Government, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is investing millions of dollars into Fresno County businesses with unprecedented labor subsidies aimed at revitalizing your company and mobilizing the workforce.

Fresno County businesses that meet certain criteria are eligible to be reimbursed up to 80% of wages for new, qualified* hires filling full-time positions. Also, this incentive will partially offset other related expenses which include:

- Work-related supplies and materials
- Training and supervision expenses
- Other related costs

Program ends September 30, 2010

*Qualified Hires: Thousands of job-ready employment candidates who may have been affected by the current economic climate and are participating in a Fresno County Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance program.

Contact the EDC BEAR Action Network: 559-476-2511

The 80/20 Program is administered and funded by the the Fresno County Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance.

For more information on the program and upcoming workshops, visit www.fresnoetastimulus.org.

Preparation for CIT's annual career expo is underway

CIT's 6th annual career expo is rapidly approaching. The event is set to take place on March 18th at the Holiday Inn and will comprise a wide variety of constructive activities aimed at: enhancing the employment potential of students, endorsing the feasibility of a career in the water industry, and creating a favorable environment where networking between students and employers can occur. Like past years, the event will host a joint cluster meeting for the water, manufacturing and food processing clusters as well as aid in employee development by providing Supervisor Training.

Throughout the course of the morning students will listen to presenters speak and be given a chance to participate in "mock interviews", practice interviews conducted in an artificial interview setting for the purpose of assessing a student's interview skills and providing them with feedback. A motivational speaker will address the audience during the provided lunch.

We are seeking volunteers to conduct mock interviews as well as company exhibitors and/or individuals willing to present to the students. If you or your company are interested in being a part of our annual career exposition, e-mail Laura Ramos at lramos@csufresno.edu.

December meeting wrap up

Energy efficient vapor compression distillation as well as its application and uses – Michael Sears, ForeverWater

Sears provided an understanding of energy efficient vapor compression distillation as well as its application and uses. The group was also presented with projects that include cleaning up agricultural wastewater for reuse and cleaning the nasty produced water brought up when oil is pumped from underground. Visit www.foreverwater.com for more information.

Photovoltaic solar application in agricultural irrigation – Ning Ma, Solar Application and Integration in SUNGEN International

Dr. Ning Ma discussed photovoltaic solar application in agricultural irrigation. Dr. Ma introduced the basis of PV technology, its current status and development in the future. Dr. Ma also presented the PV solar applications in agriculture, such as solar water pumping, stand-alone solar power in rural areas, and solar power in vinery. A few systems were presented to illustrate the configurations, components and pros and cons of each design. Dr. Ma discussed economic issues such as investments, government incentives and return rates. More information can be found at www.sungen.com.

Workforce Committee Update

ICWT is expanding the internship program to include all schools and majors. It is ICWT's goal to be a resource for all companies in the area. Next ICWT meeting is in March and will be held at the Holiday Inn, we will be having the Career Expo at the same time. If you'd like to participate contact lramos@csufresno.edu.

ICWT Announcements

USDA will have speakers at Water Conference in May of 2010 who will focus on new technology.

Power meters will be used in ag community with smart irrigation controls.

Fresno County Workforce Investment Board contract was extended to include blue and green jobs. At our next meeting ICWT will present activities that will take place in the next four years.

ICWT is investigating the possibility of creating a drought center focused on Ag to the Fresno State campus.

WATER CLUSTER MEETING*

**Holiday Inn Downtown
1055 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93721
March 18, 2010
9 A.M. – 11 A.M.**

**Please RSVP to lramos@csufresno.edu
or (559)278-2066**

From The North

- Take Hwy 99 South
- Take FRESNO ST/CIVIC CENTER. exit - Exit 132B
- Take LEFT onto FRESNO ST.
- Take RIGHT onto VAN NESS AVE.
- The entrance will come up shortly on RIGHT
- End at 1055 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, Ca. 93721

From The South

- Take Hwy 99 North
- Merge onto CA-41 N toward Yosemite
- Take the first exit VAN NESS AVE/CIVIC CENTER exit. Exit 126B
- Turn LEFT onto VAN NESS AVE.
- Pass TULARE AVE and turn LEFT into our underground parking garage.

* Technical presentations are part of an ongoing effort to provide a venue for cluster members to learn about innovative ideas and products. They do not constitute product endorsement by either Water Cluster members or the International Center for Water Technology. If you are interested in presenting at an upcoming meeting, please contact Laura Ramos at lramos@csufresno.edu.