

March 12, 2008

TO: Executive Board
American Institute of Hydrology

FROM: James Cruise
University of Alabama in Huntsville

RE: Nomination of Dr. Vijay P. Singh for Founders Award

I am writing to nominate Dr. Vijay P. Singh for the 2008 AIH Founders Award. It is my understanding that the Founders Award is bestowed by the AIH Executive Board for “outstanding, long and dedicated service to the Institute”. Based upon these standards, I believe that Dr. Singh is eminently qualified to receive this award.

Vijay is currently the Caroline and William N. Lehrer Distinguished Chair in Water Engineering at Texas A&M University. I believe that most everyone is familiar with the many contributions that Vijay has made to the AIH at every level. He has been active in AIH since its inception and has diligently worked to foster the Institute. He founded the Louisiana Section soon after AIH itself was founded and served as its president for many years. During that time he recruited many hydrologists (myself included) into the organization. The continuing strong presence of the AIH on the Gulf Coast is largely due to Vijay’s persistent efforts during the nascent years of the organization. He has always stressed the importance of professional standards in the practice of hydrology and feels very strongly that AIH is the proper venue for the promulgation and maintenance of those standards. Nationally, he has served the Institute in nearly every one of its offices, from committee chair (1996) to senior vice president (1999-2000) to president-elect (2000-2001) to president (2001-2003).

During his leadership of AIH, Vijay began many initiatives designed to strengthen and enhance the Institute. Several of these initiatives were aimed at enhancing the image and position of AIH within the professional community. For example, he has explored opportunities to establish AIH chapters in foreign countries including Mexico, China, Australia, Portugal, Italy, Sweden, and India. Constructive dialogs were held with professionals from each of those countries with the aim of establishing chapters in their respective nations. Currently, there are many foreign members of AIH which is at least partly due to Vijay’s efforts. Along those same lines, Vijay began to form collaborative relationships with professional hydrologic societies in other countries including the British Hydrologic Society and the Indian Hydrologic Society. At home he worked to strengthen our relationship with the Groundwater Well Association.

Within AIH itself, Vijay initiated several activities that have the potential to be of great benefit to the Institute. First, I know that he devoted a great deal of effort in an attempt to upgrade the Journal (Hydrologic Science and Technology) and make it into a recognized archival journal for professionals in hydrology. He worked diligently with

the Executive Board at that time to produce a plan whereby the journal could be published regularly with refereed articles. He had already begun to solicit manuscripts for this purpose. He was greatly disappointed when a consensus plan could not be developed, but I believe the issue is still under consideration by AIH leadership. It was also under Vijay's leadership that the initiative began to introduce additional membership grades in the Institute and to certify additional professionals.

Vijay's latest contribution to AIH was the organization and chairmanship of the 2006 Annual Conference held in Baton Rouge, LA in May of that year. I think everyone would agree that this was a most successful meeting. This meeting followed very closely the time when Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana and it served as a timely venue for many very interesting technical presentations related to that event as well as other topics. The conference was attended by over 200 professionals, and was one of the most successful conferences from a financial standpoint that the Institute has ever held.

Professionally, Vijay is certainly one of the most prominent hydrologists working today. He is an internationally recognized authority in physical modeling and systems analysis and has authored or coauthored 12 books and over 400 refereed journal articles. He has also served the hydrologic profession for many years in varied and numerous capacities and currently serves as Editor in Chief of the Springer Water Science and Technology book series and as Editor in Chief of the ASCE Journal of Hydrologic Engineering. Of course, Vijay has been the recipient of many awards including the ASCE Ven Te Chow Award – the top ASCE honor for hydrologists, and the Ray K. Linsley award from AIH. He has been awarded the prestigious D.WRE. by the Academy of Water Resources Engineers of ASCE. His professional accomplishments and visibility bring great credit to the AIH. I think it is also of note here that Vijay has twice before been recognized for his service to AIH through a commendation for Dedicated and Outstanding Service (2001) and a Certificate of Appreciation (2002).

In summary, I believe that the record shows that Dr. Vijay Singh has provided long, sustained, and distinguished service to the AIH, and that this service has been of great benefit to the Institute. In addition, his recognized excellence as a professional hydrologist and educator has always reflected great credit on the organization. For these reasons I believe that it is most appropriate that Dr. Singh be awarded the AIH Founders Award for 2008.

Sincerely,

James F. Cruise, P.H.