WiSE Wednesday Lecture Series Presents:

State of the Institute
Daan Liang, Ph.D.
Interim Director, NWI; Ph.D.; Professor, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering (CECE)

ABSTRACT:
Dr. Daan Liang, the NWI Interim Director, will deliver his biannual State of the Institute address to report the progress towards NWI’s strategic goals related to research, education, and public service. The NWI is an expansive organization with an annual operation budget of more than $3 million. It houses about two-dozen full-time employees, including administrators, research professors, post-doc researchers, staff members, technicians, instructors, research and teaching assistants as well as supporting more than forty faculty affiliates from various academic departments. There are approximately twelve students enrolled in the wind Ph.D. program and over two-hundred in the wind energy undergraduate program. In FY17, total value of new awards reaches $7.7m, almost three times of what it had last year. Among them, $4m comes from federal sources, including NSF, DOE, DOD, NOAA, and DHS. The success is the direct result of the diversity of NWI-supported activities as well as the high productivity of its faculty affiliates and researchers in all four major areas: wind energy, smart grid, wind engineering, and severe storm. In addition, he will outline his priorities for the FY2018 and solicit feedback from the audience.

The second part of the seminar is allocated for discussion of the wind PhD program.

BIOGRAPHY:
Daan Liang is a Professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering (CECE) of Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering and directs the National Wind Institute (NWI). As its Interim Director, Liang is the chief administrator providing leadership, management, and stewardship of NWI’s facilities, finance, personnel, and operations. He is responsible for developing and maintaining strategic relationships with other research centers, universities, industries, government agencies, and national laboratories. In addition, Liang coordinates an interdisciplinary doctoral program in wind science and engineering, engaged in recruitment, mentoring, advising, assessment, and other academic matters.

Liang’s research interests include windstorm damage assessment, disaster mitigation and recovery, and structural health monitoring of civil structures. He has been supported by grants from National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy, Texas Department of Transportation, private industry, and charitable foundation. He received his B.S. degree in Engineering Management from Tianjin University, Tianjin, China, in 1997, and the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering from the University at Buffalo, NY, USA, in 1999 and 2001, respectively. Liang has been a licensed professional engineer in Texas since 2007.