

## South Africa's Agrément Pays A Visit

IAS hosted representatives Joe Odhiambo and Kevin Bramwell from Agrément South Africa. Agrément South Africa is a technical assessment agency that is dedicated to promoting economic development and prosperity within South Africa. Their focus is on the building and engineering industry. Agrément was established by the Minister of Public Works in 1969 as an independent organization.

The purpose of Joe and Kevin's visit was to observe various aspects of IAS operations. Raj Nathan and John Pakianadan, of IAS, took them to review a typical construction material testing laboratory accredited by IAS. They met Tim Foster, President and Martin Mejia of Specialized Testing. A routine series of tests were demonstrated for concrete cylinder breaks and anchor pulls. Later, there was a discussion of the ISO/IEC Standard 17025 accreditation program.

Rick Archer, of the IAS Building Department Accreditation (BDA) program, took Joe and Kevin to visit Preet Bassi and Mark Gibbons at the City of Anaheim, California Planning Department's Building Division. A tour of a construction site as well as interviews with Lorri Gonsalves, Building Operations Manager, Scott Beery, Senior Plans Examiner, Margaret Furtado, Permit Counter Supervisor and Trino Jimenez, Building Inspector Supervisor, provided the Agrément representatives a thorough understanding of how a building department operates in the United States. Joe and Kevin also got a briefing on AC251, the IAS Accreditation Criteria for Building Departments.



**Tim Foster, Kevin Bramwell, Joe Odhiambo, Raj Nathan and Martin Mejia at Specialty Testing in Santa Fe Springs, California**



**Oscar Davalos, Mark Gibbons, Preet Bassi, Kevin Bramwell, Joe Odhiambo, and Phil Delp at a seismic retrofit in Anaheim, California**