



ASPAC asia-pacific region news

No.6: December 2007

ASPAC Executive Committee Meeting at FIDIC 2007 Conference in Singapore, September 2007

The FIDIC Member Associations of Asia-Pacific Region (ASPAC) Executive Committee (EC) Meeting was held at FIDIC 2007 Conference in Singapore on 11 September 2007. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Akihito Hirotoni (AJCE, Japan), and had other four EC members, namely Mr. S.P. Castro (CECOPHIL, Philippines), Mr. K.K. Kapila (CEAI, India), Mr. Karamat Chaudry (ACEP, Pakistan), and Mr. Yap Kok Ming (ACEM, Malaysia) with attendance of Mr. Subhash Mehrotra, EC Member of FIDIC. After confirmation of the last minutes of meeting in Budapest, EC members discussed the election of a new ASPAC EC member since the term of the present Mr. Adam Thornton (ACENZ, New Zealand), the present EC member, will end up to the next General Assembly Meeting (GAM). It was agreed that a new EC member would be elected by vote in the GAM held in the next day from three candidates coming from Australia, Nepal and Vietnam.



The Chairman then presented “ASPAC Action Plan” which illustrated medium-term activities of ASPAC between 2007 and 2009, and asked the members to propose the Plan to GAM. The members endorsed his idea. “ASPAC Action Plan” is described in detail later.

Finally, training programs of ASPAC members were discussed. Mr. Castro informed that CECOPHIL would have an International Contracts Training Course planned on October 2007. Since FIDIC training courses held in Europe and US are too expensive for ASPAC Member Association (MA) to participate, it would be very useful to utilize this kind of course that a lecturer is appointed from local FIDIC experts. The members agreed that ASPAC could provide information on such courses so that MAs could disseminate the information to their members.

ASPAC General Assembly Meeting at FIDIC 2007 Conference in Singapore, September 2007

The ASPAC General Assembly Meeting was also held during the FIDIC Conference on 12



September 2007. We firstly discussed the selection of a new ASPAC EC member from three nominees, i.e., Mr. Dennis Sheehan, President of ACEA (Australia), Mr. Keshav Kunwar, President of SCAEF (Nepal), and Mr. Nguyen Canh Chat, President of VECAS (Vietnam). As a result, voting subject to these three candidates was conducted, and Mr. Sheehan was then elected as an ASPAC EC member until year of 2010.



After the election, “ASPAC Action Plan” was presented by Mr. Hirotsugu, the Chairman of GAM, and agreed its concept and concrete actions. As the same as EC Meeting in the previous day, Mr. Castro from the Philippines insisted on importance of training programs in terms of contracting and informed that CECOPHIL would have an international training course on October 2007 in Manila.

ASPAC Action Plan 2007-2009

ASPAC Action Plan 2007-2009 aims at promoting better relations among ASPAC member associations in order to commoditize information and expand business chances in the Asia-Pacific region. These actions result in enhancing interaction within the member associations more and more, and in expanding their business opportunities. These results are also expected to bring in an increase of the number of consultant associations representing countries which wish to join ASPAC and consequently the number of FIDIC member association shall grow.

The Action Plan consists of three stages. The target of the first year, i.e., year of 2007 is “***Raising Awareness and Creating Communication Environment among the MAs.***” To achieve this target, the following actions are to be conducted:

- 1a ASPAC News Letter will be issued periodically and reported on ASPAC page of FIDIC web site;
- 1b Information regarding annual action plans for each member association shall be provided for ASPAC secretariat which at this moment is AJCE (Association of Japanese Consulting Engineers). Secretariat shall start compiling and tabulating the information. The annual action plans of the member associations after the compilation and tabulation shall be reported on ASPAC page of FIDIC web site in order; and
- 1c A list of field of expertise, the number of engineers, and so on for each member association shall be displayed on ASPAC page of FIDIC web site.



The target of the year of 2008, the second year of the Plan is ***“Gathering and Arranging Information from the MAs and Providing it for their Needs.”*** Based on the first year’s performance, the member associations shall implement the following actions:

- 2a Information regarding annual action plans, a list of field of expertise, the number of engineers, and so on for all member associations shall be displayed on ASPAC page of FIDIC web site; and
- 2b News and activity reports of all member associations shall be collected and compiled by the secretariat and put on ASPAC page of FIDIC web site.

The target of the last year, year of 2009, is ***“Securing Consistency and Sustainability of ASPAC Activities, and Presenting Directions toward the Future.”*** In the final year, continuation and reinforcement of the past activities are indispensable, and the following actions shall be carried out:

- 3a Performance in three years shall be reviewed and general directions of the follow up actions for ASPAC shall be proposed; and
- 3b Problems for establishment of ASPAC permanent secretariat shall be identified and sorted out, and solutions of the problems shall be suggested.

Now, the first year is nearly ended, and so it is cordially requested to each member association that information regarding annual action plans and a list of field of expertise, the number of engineers, and so on should be sent to ASPAC secretariat, i.e., AJCE (Association of Japanese Consulting Engineers) as soon as possible.

Country Report from Member Associations

We are pleased to inform you the activity of our member associations as follows.

BACE (Bangladesh) *Bangladesh Association of Consulting Engineers*

- BACE has been conducting regular Seminars/Workshops for “Capacity Building” of its Member-Firms. In the next half year, the following topics will be covered:
 - Necessity of Forensic Engineering in Bangladesh;
 - Safety Consideration and Practices in Replacement of existing aging Bridges and Culverts;
 - Concrete Additives in Modern Construction; and
 - New Thoughts on Development of Human Resources in the Backdrop of Globalization.
- BACE conducts the above Seminars as training programmes to the Young Professionals of our Member Firms, by local qualified and competent engineers.
- BACE, being a founder member of TCDPAP as well as being its current President of TCDPAP, intends to send a strong delegation in the next TCDPAP Annual Conference (2008) to be held in Seoul.



ACEP (Pakistan) *Association of Consulting Engineers Pakistan*

- ACEP has a plan to conduct the following Seminars:
 1. Roundtable Conference of Engineering Consultants with ASPAC Executive Members for Adaptation of National Agenda for Growth of Engineering Consultancy Services in Pakistan.
 2. National Seminar on Consulting Services: International Practices vs. Domestic Regulations.
- ACEP conducts two days training program for the Civil Engineers on application of Pakistan Building Code with specific emphasis on seismic design.
- 15 days workshop is also conducted on craftsman training to be jointly organized by ACEP, APCA (All Pakistan Contractor Association) and Federal Government.

AJCE (Japan) *Association of Japanese Consulting Engineers*

- AJCE has a plan to have the following seminars or conferences according to its annual schedule. Seminars on DAB and/or DBO are still now under consideration to be held.
 - October 5, 2007 Seminar on FIDIC Singapore Conference
 - November 22, 2007 AJCE Annual Seminar
- Training program together with above seminars will be held as a part of major activities of AJCE, being received well as an annually provided service for member firms. Participants are offered CPD credits, which is compulsory in Japan for registered professional engineers.
 - October, 2007 Australia-Japan Young Professional Exchange Program (AJCE accepts several young engineers from Australia this year)
 - November 5, 2007 Seminar on Continuing Professional Development Seminar
- AJCE has the other activities as follows:
 - January 9, 2006 New Year's Greetings Exchange Meeting
 - March, 2006 Publication of "AJCE Newsletter(English)"

VECAS (Vietnam) *Vietnam Engineering Consultant Association*

- VECAS has a plan to have the following seminars or conferences:
 - Seminar on the Independent Consultant
 - Annual Conference on VECAS
- The following training programs are planned:
 - Four new FIDIC of contracts;
 - Vietnamese laws and regulations relationship with Engineering Consultant services; and
 - Training courses on enhancing the capacity of Engineering Consultants in Vietnam, such as Quality Supervision, Procurement Procedure, Financial Management, Project Management, Standard and Code in Construction in Vietnam.
- VECAS has also the following plans to be implemented:



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- To take part in the building process laws and regulations that are related to VECAS and VECAS member activities;
- To propose with the government and other bodies for implementing some items in the laws and regulations that are not corresponded with VECAS and VECAS member activities and their doing business; and
- To establish relationship with other associations in the world for exchanging the experiences and extending the cooperation between Vietnamese engineering society and others.

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