



NEWSLETTER

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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Chairperson's message



Michele Kruger
South Africa

Greetings Young Professionals from around the world!

We have experienced a terrible tragedy namely the Earthquakes and associated Tsunamis in Japan. Our thoughts go out to those affected during these tough times and wish all the best of luck. Another issue affecting us is the conflict in Libya where we hope a peaceful solution will be found soon. There are members of the FIDIC Young Professionals Forum Steering Committee in both these countries, namely Tomoyuki Kitano from Japan and Hisham S Ghellali from Libya. We wish these two members of the Steering Committee all the luck and strength to overcome these obstacles and hope that prosperity will eventually return to their respective countries. We are thinking of you! We want to applaud you for still participating in the programme despite all the challenges you are facing. Your contributions are invaluable.

We are also getting very excited planning the YP events for the FIDIC Conference which will take place in Davos, Switzerland in October this year. Our plenary session theme will be looking at "Developing Skills" and post more details about the events on our website at ypf.fidic.ch/forum.com, and check out the conference website at www.fidic2011.org for location and travel information, business programme, and social activities. We look forward to hosting you and hope you will attend!

Herewith a message from Enrico Vink, Managing Director of FIDIC:

Dear colleagues

As you will be aware, due to the difficult and uncertain challenges in North Africa, FIDIC was obliged to relocate the annual FIDIC conference from Hammamet in March 2011. I am pleased to advise that this difficult task has been successfully undertaken, with the original programme for Tunis now taking place in Davos, Switzerland, from 2-5 October 2011.

Registrations are open now through www.fidic2011.org. A comprehensive programme has been developed, following on from FIDIC 2009 in London, FIDIC 2010 in Delhi, and concluding the series of discussions with FIDIC 2011, which explores within the setting of the Swiss Alps, the essential ingredients of successful businesses in the Consulting Engineering sector – the people. Yes, the global challenges which require innovative solutions, in turn impose on us all, the need to find and provide the best talent we possibly can. Come to Davos and share with others how this all fits together.

Thanks Enrico! We look forward to the conference!

Dr. Michele Kruger
FIDIC YPFSC Chair



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Emrah Uliverdi
Turkey



Salih Burak Akat
Turkey

THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE: A TURKISH CASE STUDY

At the FIDIC 2009 London Conference, then FIDIC President John Boyd described the significance of engineering and architecture:

Engineers play a vital role in the improvement of human life.

Thinking about this truth deeper, we face the reality that engineers and architects create projects to provide an easier life and to sustain life with a clean and safe environment. The daily needs of humanity to improve quality of life and the continuous need to provide sustainable solutions are supported by engineering and architecture projects.

Despite the fact that engineering and architecture is an indispensable part of the modern world, the problem of decreasing interest towards pursuing engineering and architecture as a career has been discussed at various national and international platforms and has included possible solutions to this problem. This issue encouraged the GEM (Turkish Young Engineers and Architects) Platform to perform concrete and objective studies to determine the interest towards engineering and architecture professions. It was decided that the study should analyze the choice of profession by selected approximately 5000 Turkish University students who scored highest on their university entrance exam. This is a preliminary exam which allowed students to choose their university undergraduate programs. Data was collected from the 1989 and 2009 exams from various institutions responsible for organization and evaluation of the exam.

The data collected yielded some interesting results:

From the data sample in 1989, 4655 students who scored highest on their exams were considered. During this time, 60% had chosen engineering and architecture undergraduate programs, and 40% had chosen other undergraduate programs. When the sample from 2009 was collected, only 26% of 5000 students selected engineering and architecture undergraduate programs while 71% had chosen other undergraduate programs. The most popular programs selected overall were the faculty of medicine (68% of students) in 2009.

The results of this objective research points out the drastic decrease of interest towards engineering and architecture professions in Turkey over the last twenty years. This fact has triggered the GEM Platform to investigate possible reasons for this drastic decrease. The platform has determined one of the key factors top students prioritize their career choice away from engineering and architecture is based on the ideas expressed from young professionals currently working within the consulting engineering field. Students consider the ideas and expression of these young professionals valuable and significant because students can identify themselves as closer to this group and know that they also have gone through a similar situation recently when determining their own future. This has directed the attention of GEM Platform to young professionals working in the consulting engineering field in order to investigate the drastic decrease of interest towards engineering and architecture professions in Turkey.

GEM Platform has conducted a questionnaire among platform members and other young professionals who have worked in the consulting engineering field for a couple of years. The questionnaire was composed of four questions described below as;

- What problems are you facing while performing your job?
- What are the primary problems that you expect to be solved by your company? What are your suggestions for possible solutions of these problems?



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- How can the GEM Platform contribute to the possible solutions of these problems?
- What may be the contributions of ATCEA (Association of Turkish Consulting Engineers and Architects) to the possible solutions of these problems?

The primary problems indicated by young professionals based on the questionnaire was lack of communication between their seniors and managers. This lack of communication results in a lack of knowledge exchange, and many Young Professionals consider this a serious problem related to their personal development and enthusiasm. Most consider certain decision making roles are assigned only to senior employees. This results in a perception that their efforts and ideas are neglected and they are not involved at all in the decision making process. Financial issues were also pointed out as most consider their financial compensation not proportional to their efforts in what many consider a stressful and time constrained job that also affects their social life. The rigid organizational hierarchy of companies and lack of technical infrastructure are other serious problems Young Professionals have encountered while performing their jobs.

Young professionals have suggested that the the primary solution should be focused on improving networking and knowledge exchange with their seniors and managers. In order to maintain an efficient networking and knowledge exchange, they expressed the importance of an effective supervising system, a more flexible organizational hierarchy within companies, and their involvement in decision making processes. They also expressed a concern that that a lack of attention to professional development of Young Professionals is also a serious issue. Suggested solutions by the Young Professionals included proper archiving of information, use of updated software, and encouragement to participate in company or other approved training programs. The provision of providing better career planning service by their companies was also suggested, and it is considered that these improvements will make a significant contribution to their job satisfaction and the company's future development. It was also pointed out that financial status and workload issues should be adjusted by companies according to their efforts and contributions to their companies.

Young professionals consider GEM Platform as an important platform for expressing ideas and thoughts. It is expected that the GEM Platform will mainly focus on providing a reliable platform for networking with their seniors and managers without a rigid hierarchy. They also expressed the importance of the platform to enable networking with other young professional organizations from other countries for professional and personal development. Regular training programs and social activities are also expected from the GEM Platform. Young professionals see ATCEA as a significant supporter and supervisor of GEM Platform and they would like to see continuing support for the future organization. They expect ATCEA to provide a solid background and supervision based on in interacting with FIDIC, EFCA and other young professional programs. They also expect ATCEA to take an active role to help facilitate networking of young professionals with their seniors and managers by organizing workshops, projects and other activities.

The objective research results indicate a drastic decrease towards engineering and architecture in Turkey during last 20 years, and it is raising questions about the future of engineering and architecture in Turkey. At GEM Platform we believe this situation is also a major problem in other countries. Having a strong and experienced global consulting engineering community in FIDIC can unite all countries, ideas and problems. Accordingly, at GEM Platform, we would like to hear ideas and possible solutions, which could be different due to cultural differences, from other young professional organizations about this serious problem which is raising questions about the future of consulting engineering.

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ISCE Young Professionals News

The Iranian Society of Consulting Engineers Young Professional Forum had some very busy months during this past fall and winter seasons. There were three general meetings along with an extensive educational program.

The three general meetings conducted for ISCE YPF included:

- A general meeting about YPMTP in which three participants of the program explained the program in details and encouraged more Young Professionals to participate in the next YPMTP for 2011.
- A meeting on Bio fuels that was organized by ISCE YPF and was attended by professionals from ISCE, various universities, NGOs and green activists. There were four lecturers and a very interesting open debate.
- A meeting celebrating Iran's Engineers Day (February 24), where we had three speakers, lecturing on the importance of engineering and the role of engineers in the society. A movie was also shown about engineering contributions to the development of society. The ceremony ended with a memorable musical performance.



Nader Shokoufi
Iran



A meeting celebrating the engineer's day

The educational program that has been developed is based on the "FIDIC Guide to Practice: The business of a professional services firm". It is divided into seven sections, with six sessions in each section and the first session has been presented to a class of 45 YPs and senior engineers. The seminars were lead by FIDIC's Young Professional Management Training Program (YPMTP) graduates.

ISCE YPF is planning to continue its educational program through next year and is currently organizing at least two more seminars before its general assembly in the summer 2011.

Nader Shokoufi
ISCE YPF Chairperson



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Julia Cheng
China

FIDIC Engineer Certification Pilot Program Launched in China

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) has, through nearly one hundred years of effort, developed a series of documents and guidelines for the consulting engineering industry based on global experience and best practice. These documents and guidelines have been widely acknowledged and used by the United Nations, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other international organizations and funding institutions.

Amongst these, FIDIC contracts have become an important reference for international consulting engineering and engineering contracts management. Also, FIDIC's quality management system, integrity management system, project sustainability management system, and other standards for the engineering consulting industry have been widely adopted by the international consulting engineering industry.

According to the decision of the FIDIC Executive Committee and following approval by the Chinese government, a pilot program for FIDIC Engineer Certification will be conducted in China in order to accelerate the development of the consulting engineering industry to undertake international business.

The FIDIC Engineer Certification testifies to an individual's understanding of FIDIC professional best practice following successful completion of a systematic training program and an assessment of the understanding of the FIDIC body of knowledge.

FIDIC and CNAEC will recognize those who have obtained the FIDIC Engineer certificate by suitable listing, and will work to promote their acceptance by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, and other international organizations as international consulting engineering project managers.



CNAEC 2010 Annual Conference

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Consulting Engineers South Africa – Young Professional Forum Update

Since our establishment YPF South Africa has grown from strength to strength and now boasts seven active branches nationally.

Through our branches, YPF SA continues to create and raise awareness about the Engineering and Built Environment Industry, to support and network with peers and older professionals, as well as to give back to our communities through voluntary work.

Youth in Construction Week

CESA-YPF exhibited at the *Youth In Construction* Exhibition held at the Sci-bono Science Centre from the 21st to 25th February 2011. The exhibition went well, with over 4000 learners from 48 school/FET colleges attending the exhibition. Thank you to all our YPs for volunteering and sharing their experience with Mzansi's future engineers and leaders. Auriel Petersen(GOBA); Ajeshni Singh(GIBB); Kieren Brown(MPA); Linda Sibozza; Tshireletso Rammutla(BKS); and Qaqambile Ngumbela

Gautrain Hatfield Station Site Visit 9 & 10 February 2011 - GP North

YPF-GP North kicked off their year outdoors. 20 YPs were afforded the opportunity for a preview tour of the Gautrain Hatfield Station over two days. Insight was gained on latest technology used on the project to accommodate all population groups. Thank you to Mr. Larry Pringle and Mr. George Celliers of the Gautrain Provincial Support Team(BKS) for organizing and leading the tour.



**Tshireletso
South Africa**



(Picture Credit: Antoinette Mmekwa – GOBA)

Walter Sisulu University EngineeringTalk - Border Kei

BulelwaLeni (SSI), YPF Border Kei Branch Treasurer presented the Engineering Talkhosted by the Border Kei Branch to the Engineering students at the Walter Sisulu University, East LondonCampus on 2 March 2011. The session was well attended with more than 20 students in S3 and S4. Prominent challenges facing students are the lack ofin-service training opportunities upon the completion of their theoreticalmodules. YPs encouraged students to keep submitting applications. The Border Kei YPs will be volunteering their time to assist students with compiling their CVs.

The Flow of Money in a Consulting Firm- Western Cape

The YPFWestern Cape Branch hosted a workshop on The Flow of Money in a ConsultingFirm. The workshop focused on how typical consulting firms acquire work, howfirms receive payment for work done, how staff members' salaries are affected byacquisition methods and how to achieve career progression and recognition.



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**Communications
Chairperson
FIDIC YPF Steering
Committee**



**Michele Kruger
South Africa**

HOW TO BECOME PART OF THE FIDIC YPF GROUP

Become part of this young dynamic group of people and receive updates, newsletters and information on upcoming events such as FIDIC conferences and training opportunities.

International YPF Groups: find out what the YPs in your country are doing and how to connect with them! Please register on the YPF homepage listed below.

Once we have your details, we will send you our newsletter and other info as it comes up. Please remember to keep your details updated!

For general information about us and FIDIC, go to: www.fidic.org

For more information or if you need help to connect, contact myself at:
fidicypforum@gmail.com

**Michele Kruger
Communications Chairperson
FIDIC YPF Steering Committee**

Starting your own YPF in your country

If you liked what you saw in the FIDIC YPF and YPFs across the world, why not start your own? This is best achieved through your country's Member Association (MA) of FIDIC. However, if no such association exists, or your MA does not want to have their own YPF, you can contact us to find out how to start your own YPF. Through FIDIC we may have resources to make it easier or help partner it with you. All you need is your enthusiasm for Engineering! From there you decide what it is that you want your YPF to represent. What is your focus? Is it training Young Professionals? Is it getting the youth interested in Engineering? Is it just socializing with your peers? Or is it all of the above? As the FIDIC YPF, we will do all we can to support your new endeavor!

Contact us at: fidicypforum@gmail.com