



Activities

[Programme finalised for 2006 conference](#)

The 2006 International Consulting Engineering Conference (Budapest; 24-26 September) programme that covers the key issues facing the industry has been widely circulated.

[Asia's consulting engineers help alleviate poverty](#)

FIDIC's 2006 regional ASPAC Asia-Pacific conference in Dhaka systematically confirmed the vital role played by consulting engineers in alleviating poverty.

[Jordan's consulting engineering industry seeks prominence](#)

Jordan's newly formed Architecture and Engineering Forum sees FIDIC membership as a major step towards greater recognition for the kingdom's consulting engineering industry.

[Africa's engineers review regional cooperation](#)

FIDIC's GAMA Group of Africa Member Associations 2006 conference in Tanzania focussed on local capacity so that regional integration can work.

Events

[Professional services exhibition to raise industry profile in north Africa](#)

FIDIC is collaborating with its Tunisian Member Association ANBEIC in the organisation of workshops and a contracts seminar at a major professional services salon in Tunis on 7-9 June 2006.

[Forthcoming visits and meetings](#)

Regional events in Asia, Europe, South America and North Africa feature.

Contracts

[Interest in MDB Harmonised Construction Contract grows](#)

FIDIC is responding to a growing demand for translations and training owing to increased bank-financed infrastructure development using the Harmonised Construction Contract.

Representation

[Consulting engineering's economic contributions reviewed](#)

Turkey's Engineering Consultancy Congress combined with the second Balkan Forum reviewed business issues, with a special focus on the Balkans.

Business practice

[World Bank appraisal to lead to capacity building proposals](#)

In refocusing on infrastructure investment the World Bank has identified capacity needs under six themes that will be the basis for FIDIC proposals.

Business development

[Task force finalising strategic plan for Africa](#)

The FIDIC Executive, meeting in May 2006 in Mexico City, will give its final comments to a FIDIC task force's proposals for a strategic plan for Africa.

Ethics and integrity

[UN anticorruption publication showcases FIDIC](#)

FIDIC's Business Integrity Management System is presented as a prime case study in an April 2006 UN Global Compact antibribery publication.

Image

[World Water Forum highlighted industry's role](#)

A FIDIC-co-hosted 2006 World Water Forum session demonstrated the consulting engineering industry's vital role at the local level.

Notices to Member Associations

MA Notices: [May 2006](#)



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Activities

Programme finalised for 2006 conference [full item: 81Ac]

The action packed programme for the International Consulting Engineering Conference (Budapest; 24-27 September) has been finalised. Registration forms and information are available at www.consulting2006.org, and hard copies have been widely distributed. Members are urged to register promptly to take advantage of the early bird rates. Member Association Presidents, Directors, Secretaries and honorary executives are encouraged to note the conference dates to ensure that they are able to participate in critical meetings discussing the key issues facing the consulting industry, associations and consulting firms. All consulting engineering firms, irrespective of their fields of specialisation, are also encouraged to make advance plans to profit from this unique opportunity to share experience, identify new tools and potential partners, and learn about the latest business developments. Those requiring visas are urged to contact the Hungarian host association AHCEA as soon as possible.



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Asia's consulting engineers help alleviate poverty [full item: 79Ac]

Basic infrastructure is vital in the fight against poverty. This was the key message presented by FIDIC President Jorge Diaz Padilla and Managing Director Enrico Vink at FIDIC's 2006 ASPAC Asia-Pacific regional conference in Dhaka in March. Hosted by Bangladesh Association of Consulting Engineers, FIDIC's national Member Association, guests included government officials, Bangladesh's Asian Development Bank Country Director Hua Du and FIDIC ASPAC association representatives from Pakistan, Korea, China, Singapore, Nepal and India.



Following a well-thought out structure that is model for similar events, the conference theme was set by presentations on the role of engineering and how its impact is modelled. Overviews of experience at the national level (Bangladesh; India) and sector level (housing; transport) then demonstrated that the provision of road links into rural towns had improved economic and health conditions for thousands of communities along with access for health workers, government support teams and suppliers of energy and water services. Finally, for the project level, Mahbub Haque, President of the host association BACE and of TCDPAP, a regional development programme that cohosted the conference, described a specific project that had made a major impact on poverty reduction.

The important role played by consulting engineers was confirmed in separate discussions with Bangladesh officials. Procurement rules are being rewritten, and new procedures will deal with corrupt practices so that consulting engineers will be able to participate on an even larger scale. The ASPAC 2006 conference presentations are available from the FIDIC Secretariat in hard copy and will be made available on the ASPAC website, FIDIC.org/ASPAC.

Jordan's consulting engineering industry seeks prominence [full item: 82Ac]

Jordan's consulting engineers have an excellent reputation, nationally and internationally. They are among the Mid-East's main suppliers of consulting engineering services and many are benefiting from a boom in construction. Firms, offices and individual engineers register with the Jordan Engineering Association (JEA; 6500 consulting engineers; 1300 firms). The larger firms and those working internationally saw the need for an industry organization for governance, managing information, representation and service provision. They established the Architecture and Engineering Forum (AE Forum for short) which started operating in mid-2005 from a secretariat in a JEA-owned building in central Amman. As part of a European Union funded development programme that includes assistance to business support organisations, FIDIC and one of FIDIC's larger Member Associations were invited to meet the AE Forum board to discuss ways to develop the Forum and to integrate it internationally. Following presentations by Klaus Rollenhagen, VBI-Germany's Managing Director, and Peter Boswell, FIDIC General Manager, it was concluded that once the status of the new association is agreed with the authorities, it would most likely apply for FIDIC membership.

Africa's engineers review regional cooperation [full item: 80Ac]

Africa's consulting engineers met at the FIDIC Group of Africa Member Association (GAMA) conference in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, in early April 2006 for the 13th GAMA Annual Conference to review networking and cooperation in engineering consultancy. Abisai Temba, Director of Tanzania's Ministry of Infrastructure Development, emphasised that NEPAD's main focus is to promote regional integration to overcome economies of scale. Progress has been slow owing to poor integration of the private sector and weak institutions.



One way forward was to mobilize local resources, and several presentations gave examples of the excellent local capacity that is available. Another path was to strengthen institutional frameworks. Here again, participants heard of an excellent example from Tanzania presented by B.L.M. Mwamila of Tanzania's Engineers Registration Board and Exaud Mushi, Chairman of the conference host, the Association of Consulting Engineers Tanzania.

Participants were also able to keep abreast of the latest developments in business practice with presentations on virtual engineering and risk management. The room was also full on the last day's FIDIC Workshop, when participants indicated a need for information and guidance on anti-corruption initiatives. Assisted by FIDIC Past-President Eigil Pedersen, Jorge Diaz Padilla, FIDIC President, outlined FIDIC's policy on zero tolerance, as well as the tools developed by FIDIC to tackle corrupt practices head on, notably Business Integrity Management. Finally, to round out a busy three days, Bayo Adeola, a FIDIC Executive Committee member who leads the FIDIC GAMA Task Force summarized the task force's draft report. Conference presentations are available from the FIDIC Secretariat in hard copy and will be available on the GAMA website, FIDIC.org/GAMA.

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Events

Professional services exhibition to raise industry profile in north Africa

[full item: 49Ev]

Plans to organize "FIDIC days" in conjunction with the major government-sponsored Salon International des Services (SISE) in Tunis on 8 - 9 June 2006 are developing rapidly. There will be a FIDIC Contracts seminar on 7 June, the first organized by FIDIC in French as a lead up to future contracts training courses. FIDIC workshops then take place during the professional services exhibition and forum on the 8 - 9 June.

The events, that are being organized by FIDIC's Tunisian Member Association ANBEIC, will provide a major opportunity for firms to learn about business opportunities in North Africa, and to meet procurement officials from the main countries. Participants can link to the SISE website and register for the contracts seminar at FIDIC.org. The availability of French translations of the 1999 FIDIC works contracts is key. These are being finalized ready for a review by FIDIC's francophone associations, and the Multilateral Development Banks that have licensed the Construction Contract for their MDB Harmonised Edition (see [news item](#)) are deciding upon which bank should take responsibility for the French translation.



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Forthcoming visits and meetings [full item: 32Ev]

FIDIC-ECV Contracts [Course](#), Zagreb, 25-26 May 2006

Cornerstone Disputes Resolution [Workshop](#), Bucharest, 1-2 June 2006

VI Congreso Panamericano de Consultoria ([FEPAC 2006](#)), Rio de Janeiro, 4-6 June 2006

Les journées internationales de l'Ingenierie, Tunis

- Contracts [Seminar](#), 7 June 2006

- SISE Salon [Workshops](#), 8-9 June 2006

FIDIC-ECV Contracts [Course](#), Brussels, 8-9 June 2006

EFCA GAM and Directors Meeting, Bucharest, 9 June 2006

FIDIC-ICC Contracts [Conference](#), Hong Kong, 3-4 July 2006

[International Consulting Engineering Conference](#), Budapest, 24-27 Sep. 2006

FIDIC-ECV Dispute Resolution [Course](#), St. Petersburg, 17-17 Oct. 2006

Contracts

Interest in MDB Harmonised Construction Contract grows [full item: 59Co]

Following the release in March 2006 of a new version of the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Harmonised FIDIC Construction Contract (see [news item](#) and [FIDIC.org/MDB](#)), the upsurge in MDB interest in bank-financed infrastructure development has led to the Council of Europe Development Bank becoming a licensed Participating Bank. The upsurge has also brought a growing demand for translations and training. Translations into French, Spanish and Portuguese are progressing, and FIDIC is arranging for publishers, mainly Member Associations, of several translations of the standard Construction Contract 1st Edition 1999 to have permission to translate the MDB edition into other languages. Every effort being made to ensure that a translated Harmonised Construction Contract is harmonized with a published translation of the original 1st Edition. A major part of the demand for training arises because some regions, notably South America, will now have harmonized Standard Bidding Documents that include the MDB contract. Elsewhere, suppliers of contracts training courses and seminars based on the FIDIC Contracts Manual modules, that outline scope and content, have incorporated the MDB contract into programmes (see [FIDIC.org/events](#) for listings).



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Representation

Consulting engineering's economic contributions reviewed [full item: 44Re]

The 4th Engineering Consultancy Congress on trade in consulting engineering services, organized in Ankara in April by ATCEA, FIDIC's Turkish Member Association, had as its second day the 2nd Balkan Forum on overcoming barriers to collaboration in the Balkans. Attended by the FIDIC President, on the left of the photo with Rasit Unuvar, ATCEA President, and the FIDIC Managing Director, information and experience on market conditions were shared, along with ideas for joint initiatives. Participants included FIDIC representatives of Member Associations from Turkey, Albania, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria. Discussions on understanding the role of consulting engineers, procurement procedures, fee scales and standardized documentation - issues that were being addressed by all the associations represented - were boosted by the presence of the FIDIC participants, who were able to share FIDIC best practice. Congress presentations available online at [www.atcea.org.tr](#) include those on European Union opportunities and WTO suggestions as well as inputs by the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations and national Member Association representatives to a panel discussion on the input of consulting engineering to the economy. Country specific problems in the Balkans were also presented.



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Business practice

World Bank appraisal to lead to capacity building proposals [full item: 68Pr]

The World Bank, in refocusing on infrastructure investment to return to the 1987-1998 level, has recently reviewed its capacity to deliver projects that contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction, and the measures needed to rebuild shortfalls (see *Infrastructure: lessons from the last two decades of World Bank engagement*, February 2006, PDF, 67 pages, from [www.worldbank.org](#)). FIDIC has been asked to reassess its capacity building programme in the light of the lessons learnt with a view to submitting proposals for support in specific areas. The Bank's conclusions of its needs will be summarised, under six themes, in a FIDIC news item. As an example, under "the bank now needs to support projects that produce results", measures proposed are: more appropriate, innovative project design; simpler procurement procedures; more realistic cost-benefit analysis and revenue stream appraisals; fewer sector wide preconditions; more accurate measures of project implementation progress, impact and outcomes; a longer-term engagement in sustained institutional development. FIDIC's proposals will build upon its capacity building policies for action by government, international agencies and the consulting engineering industry.



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Positions
Announced

Positions
Announced

Positions
Announced

Business development

Task force finalising strategic plan for Africa [full item: 47De]

FIDIC's Group of Africa Member Associations (GAMA) Task Force announced key elements of its draft strategic plan for Africa at the recent GAMA regional conference. The report (see [news item](#) for the GAMA 2006 presentation by Bayo Adeolo, the task force chair), which focuses on improved networking, skills development and greater use of local resources, will be finalized and presented to the FIDIC Executive Committee at its next meeting in Mexico in May 2006. The ambitious plan offers a constructive approach to collaboration within Africa, as well as a real opportunity for identifying and promoting local resources. Training and development is also high on the agenda, with a number of options being explored, involving local and international trainers. Support is being sought from the African Development Bank, which plays a significant role in the funding of infrastructure in Africa.



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Ethics and integrity

UN anticorruption publication showcases FIDIC [full item: 21Et]

An April 2006 publication on the UN Global Compact Compact's anticorruption principle called *Business against corruption* has among its 25 examples from business and civil society, a case study on FIDIC's Business Integrity Management System (BIMS). BIMS represents "a prime example of how to deal with difficult dilemma when implementing the anticorruption principle". The publication also collates an enormous amount of information on corruption and bribery. It can be downloaded in PDF (3 MB) from www.globalcompact.org. In other major anticorruption initiatives, FIDIC continues to promote the deployment of BIMS through Transparency International, notably its Business Principles Steering Committee which will report on pilot testing of a web-based self-evaluation tool. BIMS has already been integrated into [DSTAIR](#), a web-based tool to help procurement agencies select appropriate anticorruption strategies.

Image

World Water Forum highlighted industry's role [full item: 30Im]

The 4th World Water Forum, with the theme *Local actions for global challenge*, came to an end on the World Water Day (22 March 2006) in Mexico City after seven days of debates. Close to 20000 delegates, including officials and delegates from 140 countries, experts, journalists and representatives of NGOs, firms, civil society and young people, participated in two hundred working sessions where 1500 local actions were presented. Opening the forum, Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito, Netherland's Prince Willem-Alexander and Morocco's Prime Minister, Driss Jettou, stressed that global water challenges must be met with action at the local level. FIDIC co-hosted the same day the session *Sustainable and secure delivery of water: unique solutions proposed by the consulting industry* with its Japanese and Mexican Member Associations, AJCE and CNEC. From the left in the photo, Prof. Enrique Santoyo, CNEC, John Boyd, FIDIC Vice-President, Jorge Diaz Padilla, convener and FIDIC President, and Yoshihiko Yamashita, AJCE, made presentations (see www.worldwaterfourm4.org.mx) highlighting the consulting engineering industry's contribution to solving local problems related to the supply, quality and management of water.



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