

## FIDIC - Activities

### Africa Conference Pushes Sustainable Projects

Final preparations are under way for this year's GAMA/FIDIC African conference, taking place in Livingstone, Zambia, from 29 April-2 May. This year will focus on the important role of consulting engineers in developing projects for sustainable economic development.



In Africa this also requires attention to the Millennium Development Goals, with core indicators for the improvement of health, standards of living, economic development, and education. Details are available on the [FIDIC website](#). FIDIC will be represented by the FIDIC President Geoff French and MD Enrico Vink, both of whom will address the conference on the industry and on capacity building.

### FIDIC World Consulting Engineering Conference 2012 – Seoul, Korea

Registrations will open shortly for this year's world conference in Seoul. This, the 99th international FIDIC conference for the consulting engineering industry, will focus on the predominant theme of the emergence of green economic growth (as witnessed in many countries, including Korea), green technology and green procurement.



Through the release of its latest State of the World report, the FIDIC conference will seek to clarify many of the issues related to sustainable development, as well as suggest a significant shift in the business models being adopted by consulting engineers in order to conceive, design, and deliver sustainable infrastructure in the future. Case studies and examples of green policies and green projects will be highlighted to stimulate the debate on future for investments in the built environment. This conference is strongly supported by the Korean Government which is itself pursuing a Green growth strategy. Some 1000 participants from 75 countries are anticipated. The significant opportunities in the consulting industry, which will be explored in Seoul, will act as an added incentive for the world's leading consulting firms, and a number of their clients and other stakeholder groups.

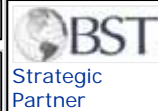
More information on the [conference website](#).

### Asian Region Focus on Collaboration

The ASPAC/FIDIC/TCDPAP conference took place in Colombo 2-3 March. Some 200 participants from 16 countries in the region shared experiences on the transfer of knowledge and technology in order to facilitate business networking and opportunities for collaboration on the significant investments taking place in infrastructure throughout the region.



A brief overview of the international consulting engineering market highlighted that development and demand continues to grow in the region, presenting significant opportunities for both multinational and local consulting firms. Reports and presentations are available through the [conference website](#). During the conference, FIDIC and ASPAC signed a new sponsor agreement with Strategic Partner BST Global, who are keen to support ASPAC with specific initiatives in the region.



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## Business - Development

### Mergers announced with EFCA committees

In order to streamline a number of common objectives, FIDIC and EFCA have agreed to merge their work on risk & liability issues, as well as on the growing initiatives connected to sustainability. Combining resources will enable greater effort to be put into the identification of new and existing risks for the industry – through conditions of contract, and through the need to identify and promote innovative solutions for global challenges.

Sustainability has been identified as an area with huge potential for the consulting industry, as well as increased risk in elevating the role of consulting engineers in the economic, financial and social debates related to green economic development, green procurement, and climate change. These issues will provide a strong focus for the FIDIC conference in Seoul in September.

In addition to merging the sustainability committees, the work undertaken by FIDIC on Innovation will become part of the larger group, as will FIDIC's work on Climate Change. The valued input of many volunteers is greatly appreciated by the industry.

### Latin American Opportunities Await

This year's annual Meeting of the Federation of Pan American Consultancies (FEPAC) in Rio de Janeiro on 16/17th April will focus on investment in infrastructure, including the use of PPPs and concession projects to meet the growing demand for new and better infrastructure in Latin America.

FIDIC Vice President Pablo Bueno will be a special guest, attending to encourage closer collaboration between the regional federation and the international federation. Several associations in the region are looking seriously at a return to FIDIC, whilst FIDIC in turn investigates options for a stronger presence in the region, particularly to help meet the growing demand for FIDIC training services, in Spanish as well as English.

### FIDIC YPMTP 2012 Programme

Some 60 candidates from 20 countries have registered for this year's FIDIC Management Training Programme for Young Professionals. The course takes place on line over 7 months, culminating in several final sessions at the FIDIC World Conference in Seoul.



Focussing on management issues related to the consulting engineering business, the course aims to acquaint these future leaders with core aspects of running a consulting firm, combining theory with practical case studies, as well as regional nuances.

### FIDIC Training Resources Boosted

The first FIDIC Trainers Accreditation Assessment was held in London in December 2011. A number of candidates successfully completed the rigorous course, and were accredited for training either at international, or at national level. Other candidates were invited to participate in a mentoring programme before accreditation was completed. FIDIC is delighted to strengthen and enlarge its pool of trainers and to offer to members and clients a wider and sustainable support for high quality training.



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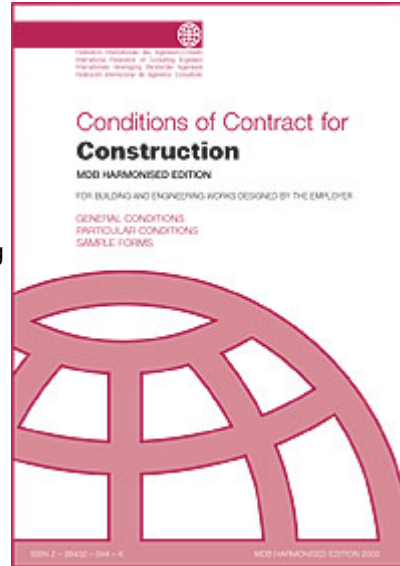
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## Business - Practice & Contracts

### MDB Conference Registration Opens

Following the success of the inaugural FIDIC/Multi-lateral Development Bank Conference in Brussels in 2011, the second conference will be expanded this year over two days on 25/26th June. In addition to addressing various issues related to projects funded by Multi-lateral Development Banks and the use of FIDIC contracts, this year will also see participation from a number of bi-lateral funding agencies, which have also adopted the Harmonised contract. Valuable contributions are also being sought from the European Commission, the contracting sector, construction worker and labour interests, the OECD, UN and various other international organisations. Key debates will take place on the use of international best practice on the delivery and management of development (aid funded) projects, and the imperatives of social, economic and environmental responsibility in such development activity. FIDIC acknowledges the strong support from the MDBs, from EFCA, CICA/EIC, BWI, and other partnering organisations.



More information and registration: <http://www1.fidic.org/events/mdb2012>

### FIDIC / ICC: Revised Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees (URDG)

The ICC has completed the revision of its Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees (URDG, version 758). The revised rules, the first in 18 years, have been formally adopted by the ICC Executive Board. Comprising 35 articles, the revised URDG rules set out the liabilities and responsibilities of the parties at each key stage of the lifecycle of the guarantee. The changes include innovative treatments of payment contingencies and more precise language for determining whether a presentation made under a guarantee or counter-guarantee, whether paper-based or electronic, is a complying presentation. These changes are expected to curb the rate of rejection of demands and increase the certainty of the instrument. The new set of rules are destined to apply to hundreds of billions of dollars of demand guarantees securing monetary and performance obligations in a wide array of international and domestic contracts.

FIDIC has also officially endorsed URDG 758 under recommendation of its Contracts Committee in March 2012. The ICC form of guarantee is referenced in FIDIC contracts, which will gradually adopt the revised Rules as they are produced.



### Project Sustainability Logbook Published

FIDIC and EFCA support the initiative lead by the French member Association (SYNTEC) to produce the Project Sustainability Logbook (PSL) at the international level. A Project Sustainability Logbook, or PSL, aims to accompany a built asset, or a group of built assets, through all stages of its life by means of benchmarks that are updated regularly. Comprising a collection of tables, the Logbook represents a method to allow the challenges and objectives of sustainable



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development which are specific to the built asset to be defined and monitored. The English version will be soon available for distribution on the FIDIC website.

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## Industry - Representation

### World Bank and IDB Visits Announced

On 17th and 18th April respectively, the FIDIC President Geoff French and MD Enrico Vink will be visiting the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. The annual bi-lateral visits are seen as an ideal way to update key priorities for both sectors, as well as discuss common issues such as procurement policies and procedures; the impact of the financial crisis on funding development projects; dealing with climate change, corruption and sustainability. FIDIC member associations have been invited to contribute to the agenda to ensure the broad ranging discussions also pick up on specific issues in the market place.

### European Federation to Celebrate 20th Anniversary

EFCA, the European Federation of Consultancy Associations, will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Lisbon from 24-25th May, using its recently published "Taking Hold of Our Future" report to introduce a number of speakers. The conference will look into various strategies for growing business during challenging times as well as sharing tips on client satisfaction.

The Report is available from the [FIDIC Bookshop](#) .



### Visit to EBRD

In February 2012, a FIDIC delegation led by President Geoff French, held wide ranging discussions with Bank officials. Bank VP Fisher spoke of the new programme for the Bank in the Southern & Eastern Mediterranean region (SEMED), covering Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan. A similar approach will be adopted to that used in CIS region (Commonwealth of Independent States – former Russian States) where considerable investment has taken place. Given that more than half the Bank's activity is non-infrastructure, there are also opportunities for consultants in the areas of engineering, financial, management and verification advice. The Bank often engages consultants directly.

EBRD was also involved in developing the Harmonised Request for Proposals now adopted by other Banks. This will simplify the involvement of consulting engineers wishing to establish their credentials and submit proposals for MDB-funded projects. Total investment committed in 2011 was up on 2010 to £9 billion.



### FIDIC/IBC Users Conference, Singapore

The next FIDIC Asian Users conference will take place in Singapore on 20/21st June 2012. This is the essential FIDIC event for understanding and successfully using the FIDIC suite of contracts and effectively avoiding or resolving disputes – from FIDIC, for FIDIC users. This conference will provide a special focus on regional usage of FIDIC contracts through an authoritative speaker line-up.

More information on the [Conference website](#)



### FIDIC Doha Users Conference: Delegates Enjoy the QATAR 2022 FIFA Pavilion

Delegates attending the latest FIDIC User's conference in Doha in February 2012 had the opportunity to visit the FIFA Pavilion exhibit office for the QATAR 2022 football world cup. Discussions and a multimedia 3D presentation gave an advance taste of the energy driving the construction industry in the region, and in sporting events in particular. Good forms of contract are once again being





promoted as a key element in running successful projects in such a challenging environment. As the QATAR 2022 Supreme Committee explained, every project is designed to meet sustainability goals and they need to be eco-efficient, giving opportunities for consulting engineers to design innovative solutions.

## Industry - Image

### FIDIC Centenary Awards Announced

As part of the FIDIC centenary celebrations in Barcelona 2013, FIDIC would like to recognise and applaud the best consulting engineering achievements of the last 100 years, to help publicise the work of consulting engineers and the contribution they make to the way we all live, as well as to celebrate FIDIC's centenary.



The main 'headline' categories of Award will be

- major building project of the last 100 years
- major civil engineering project of the last 100 years
- the leading consulting engineers of the last 100 years

The award nominations will be made by the Member Associations. The projects nominated should have been designed by a member firm and they will be judged against a number of criteria including international recognition, technical excellence, innovation, how well they have endured and their sustainability. Entries close by 21 September 2012.

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## Announcements

### News from the Executive

At its meeting in Amman in February 2012, the FIDIC Executive Committee agreed to:

- The addition of two new Strategic Objectives, acknowledging the importance of Young Professionals in the future developments of the industry; and the significance of FIDIC's acclaimed forms of Contract, which represent international best practice in over one hundred countries.
- Accelerate the development of FIDIC resources in the main regions of FIDIC activity: the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Using the growing demand for FIDIC training as a base, FIDIC aims to strengthen its presence in the regions; lend greater support to its regional groups; and facilitate the enhancement of the industry profile at the grass roots level.
- Announce that one vacancy on the FIDIC Executive Committee will occur in 2012, with nominations sought by May 2012. The Executive Committee noted that, ideally, the industry would continue to have direct representation from all regions covered by the membership.
- Enhance communications within the industry through a new Liaison Programme. Recognising the continued growth of the membership, the FIDIC Executive Committee will also become more actively engaged in association liaison, so as to boost two way communications between the federation and its members.

Whilst in Amman, FIDIC also met with representatives from the Federation of Arab & African Consultants, and from the Federation of Islamic Consulting Engineers. The talks were very fruitful and resulted in an agreement for closer collaboration on training and membership development.



## News from the Member Associations

### American Council of Engineering Companies

The Small Business Administration (SBA) in the USA has recently set the new engineering services size standard at \$14 million. The standard is based on a rolling 3-year average of gross annual revenues and applies to federal work for both agency small business prime contract goals and subcontract goals for large prime contractors.

The SBA originally proposed a \$19 million standard for engineering companies, but ACEC, with input from the Small Firm Council, raised numerous concerns about the negative impact of such high standard. In response to the Council's efforts, the SBA lowered the standard to \$14 million. This will mean that a larger number of smaller consulting firms will be able to bid for Federal work. (From ACEC Coalitions; March 2012; Vol. 1, Issue 3)

### ACEC USA Political Focus

The ACEC, FIDIC's largest member association, organises two major conferences per year. The April event provides US firms and state associations a unique opportunity to meet with their Congressman and officials, and learn more about the political process, and advocate for the industry.

Annual Convention & Legislative Summit – 15/18th April 2012 in Washington D.C.  
For more information please visit [ACEC website](#) .

### Association of Consulting Engineers Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACE B&H)

The ACE B&H announces the 3rd B&H Congress on Roads, which will be held on 20-21 September in Sarajevo. This event will gather together experts in planning and development of road transportation systems; road management, construction, maintenance and safety; protection of the environment; consulting and financing of road infrastructure; as well as scientists and governmental representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighbouring countries. Such events recognise the significant amount of investment and construction activity in the Balkan region.

For more information please visit [www.uki.ba](http://www.uki.ba) or email [uki@bih.net.ba](mailto:uki@bih.net.ba)

### Albanian Association of Consulting Engineers (AACE)

The AACE will organise the First Albanian Congress on Roads, which will be also be held in September, from 27th to 28th, in Tirana. The event represents for the association an unique opportunity at international level for the exchange of technical and practical experiences of researchers, engineers, manufacturers, operators and infrastructure managers in the road sector of roads.

For more information please visit [www.aace.al](http://www.aace.al) or contact the Congress Coordinator at [info@aace.al](mailto:info@aace.al)

### Consult Australia

The Australian association's International Symposium will take place in Sydney 19/20 July. A number of well recognised, successful people from different walks of life will participate in this innovative discussion, entitled Ahead of the Game. The topics are aimed at stimulating ideas for the positive development of companies

and their special areas of expertise. Business excellence, quality service, and customer satisfaction all rank highly in the debate. The Association will also celebrate its 60th anniversary during this event.

More information the [event website](#).

### **Association of Consulting Engineers Canada**

ACEC - Infrastructure Success

Consulting engineers in Canada will now have a voice in the federal government's creation of a long-term infrastructure plan. An ACEC White Paper prepared by the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies (ACEC), Canada, was well received, and the Government is now committed to working with the industry in developing its infrastructure plan. The next round of consultations will involve a number of stakeholders, to develop an infrastructure investment guidelines based on five themes :

- Infrastructure and the Economy
- Infrastructure and the Environment
- Infrastructure and Stronger Communities
- Financing Infrastructure
- Asset Planning and Sustainability

For more information, please see: [Article](#)

### **Belgian Association of Consulting Engineers (ORI)**

ORI Celebrates 20th Anniversary, Sustainably

For its 20th Anniversary event in April, Belgian Association ORI plans to have a guest speaker present the Sustainable City project developed in Sweden by Architect Stellan Fryxell, in conjunction with Swedish association STD. The innovative project has been acknowledged by both EFCA and FIDIC as pointing the way forward in meeting the challenges of urbanisation. The project will also be presented at the FIDIC conference in Seoul.

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