



FIDIC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM IN

INTERNATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE

9-11 SEPTEMBER 2018



International Federation of
Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)



POST CONFERENCE – SYNTHESIS REPORT

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1.0 SET SAIL

Dear our esteemed readers and fellow young professionals from around the world, welcome to the future! It is with great pleasure and pride that we invite you on this expedition as we plunge into the seas and set sail for Europe – to witness a brief account of Young Professionals activities in the just concluded **FIDIC International Infrastructure Conference** that took place from 9 – 11 September 2018, at Intercontinental Hotel, Berlin - Germany.



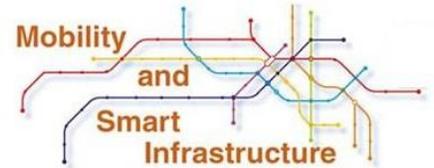
The crew and I wish to make your cruise the most enjoyable and momentous one, and, above all, the most informative one. If you are first time cruisers, you may not know what to expect, so we would like to offer up a few suggestions - expect the best, face the unexpected, and enjoy the ecstasies.

2.0 THE SQUEEZE INTO THE CAPSULE - ENCAPSULATION

As the heading suggests, let's keep this part as succinct and to the point as possible, shall we?

2.1 OVERALL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

At the risk of stating the obvious, the Programme was carefully crafted, astutely packaged, brilliantly executed, and it fitted in perfectly with the theme of this year event: **Mobility and Smart Infrastructure**. In brief, four components made up the Programme as condensed below.



i.	Pre-conference Programme 4 – 9 September 2018	6 days of intensive YPMTP sessions overlapping 2 days of FIDIC EC, FIDIC DNS, and FIDIC Presidents meetings
ii.	FIDIC Business Day Sunday, 9 September 2018	On this day, FIDIC Best Business Practice Forum delved into the discussion of FIDIC tools and services available to Members and to the industry, with discussants coming from FIDIC Specialized Committees. This was followed by a YP Symposium which focused on Engineering the Future of Consulting Engineering
iii.	Conference Day 1 Monday, 10 September 2018	Back to back interactive panel sessions provided a comprehensive coverage of Global Perspectives on Mobility and Business
iv.	Conference Day 2 Tuesday, 11 September 2018	Back to back interactive panels' discussions - provided an extensive coverage on the aspect of Smart Infrastructure , with YPs spearheading the Future Leaders Outlook session offering their vision on the future of the industry, particularly on Mobility & Smart Infrastructure.

I promised to be brief, so let's jump to the next item before I get ahead of myself.

2.2 CONFERENCE DELEGATES



From the very first day - I knew we did not go there to fly a kite. I looked around, lo and behold! The conference was densely populated and crowded with notable names in the industry, from CEOs and decision makers of gigantic companies, industry leaders, clients, international institutions' representatives, and funders of infrastructure – just to highlight a few. FIDIC 49th Annual Conference provided us with an excellent opportunity to meet and pierce through the future while reflecting on cross cutting issues with leaders and professionals working in the infrastructure industry from more than 100 countries. Towards the end of this successful conference, I stood there, staring unblinkingly into the bright future, and laughed.

2.3 THE HOST NATION

Berlin, one of the most dynamic, culturally diverse and fastest growing technology hub in Europe, with its rich history and ambitious growth plans, was undeniably the best-suited place to host the discussions on **mobility and smart infrastructure**. The host nation, as pioneered by the Germany Association of Consulting Engineers, offered a warm, entertaining and a comfortable stay coupled with interesting and elegantly displayed local culture. Oh! How I wish I could afford a space to write a thousand words to describe an endless list of Germany creative hospitality!

But wait - didn't they say a picture is worth a thousand words?



3.0 A DEEP DIVE INTO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Comrades! Stay awake! You would not want to miss this view! Kindly join me at the underwater lounge to observe the hidden world beneath the shimmering surface of the ocean and have (for yourself) an untainted view of YPF activities before and during the conference.

3.1 FIDIC YPFSC

I will spare you the details of FIDIC YPFSC structure and a comprehensive list of its activities, these you can obtain at http://fidic.org/YPF_SC if you think YPs activities began during the conference, think again. Preparations for Berlin conference began right after the end of Jakarta Conference, with YPFSC spearheading preparations of various conference activities including **YPs Symposium, Future Leaders Outlook, Meet & Greet, YPs meetings, Surveys** and **Social Media Coverage**.

Tired of many words? Me too! Let pictures do the talking.



Top: FIDIC EC & YPFSC posing for a group photo after a brief meeting held on Sunday 9 Sept. at Charlottenburg I venue; 2nd Row L to R: (i) Ms Jomanah AlBtoush the outgoing chair of FIDIC YPFSC and award winner of 2018 FIDIC YP award smiling after receiving the award during the FIDIC Gala dinner & Awards ceremony held on 10 September 2018 at Potsdam I&III venue of the Intercontinental Hotel Berlin; (ii) FIDIC YPFSC preparing for the Future Leaders Outlook Session which was predominantly led by YPs; (iii) Dr. Cosmin Tobolcea, the new Chairperson of FIDIC YPFSC presenting on the Use of Technology in Smart Cities during the YP Symposium Session held on 9 September 2018.

Bottom: FIDIC YPFSC meeting with EFCA YPs held on Monday 10 September at Charlottenburg II venue

3.2 FIDIC YPMTTP 2018



Sunday, 9th September 2018, between 11:45 and 13:00 hours – marked the summit of YPMTTP 2018 with 33 graduates joining the club of about 700 students that have graduated from this course since inception in 2004 at FIDIC Copenhagen conference. The course serves to introduce young professionals to FIDIC with most of its participants playing active roles in FIDIC YPF - helping to rejuvenate FIDIC and its various activities.

The **Future Leaders Workshop** was the culmination of YPMTTP 2018 with participants sharing a powerful networking tool, which (if put in place) will integrate knowledge and experiences benefiting from the strength of multicultural-diversity. The platform will be internet based, utilizing the latest advancement in technologies, with mobile apps offering offline libraries and a knowledge base comprising of successful projects, failures, challenges and lessons learned – while keeping track to the latest advancements in engineering and technology.

3.3 FIDIC YP SYMPOSIUM



Say YP (and your lips will form a smile) – turn the page, we are going extra mile.

On Sunday, 9 September 2018, between 10:00 and 11:45 hours – the YPs stepped on the platform to engineer the future of consulting engineering. **Michael Walker** brilliantly moderated the session that began with a much-needed welcome-note from **Dr. Nelson Ogunshakin OBE** – who appreciated the contribution of YPF and promised to engage the YPs even further during his tenure as the new FIDIC CEO. Thereafter, **Ms Jomanah AlBtoush** shared **the Reflections of YPFSC in 2018**. Followed by **Yolan Pillay** who offered his insights on **Sustainability & Innovation in Urban Mobility**. **Dr. Elisa Maceratini** came afterwards to provide a comprehension on **Women in Engineering**. While **Dr. Ahmed Stifi & Peter Matthes** co-piloted the discussions on **Management of Infrastructure Projects & Lean Construction as an Innovative Management Solution**. In the end, **Dr. Cosmin Tobolcea** remembered to add icing on the cake while delivering on **the Use of Technology in Smart Cities** hinting that, the wars of the 21st century will be fought over water.

On your way to the next session - kindly pass by the lobby and enjoy a few snapshots from YP symposium



3.4 FIDIC YP TECHNICAL TOUR

Sunday, 9th September 2018, between 15:00 and 16:30 hours – was yet another opportunity for YPs and other interested conference participants to attend a technical tour at the Main Train Station of Berlin. An officer for industrial heritage provided insightful guidance while highlighting the history of the project since inception.



Berlin Main Station is one of the largest and most modern connecting station in Europe, receiving an influx of about 300,000 passengers and visitors daily. It is one of the most spectacular architectural projects located on an historic site, which came into full operation on 28 May 2006 after undergoing eleven years of construction. The design of the station is part of the mushroom concept, placing an emphasis on the character of the station as a traffic intersection in which the station forms a connecting point for converging and intersecting lines – integrating different modes of public transport through its five levels. It has sophisticated system of large openings in the ceilings allowing natural light to penetrate even to the lower tracks.



It was interesting to note that, the initial architectural concept could not quite be realized in accordance with the wishes of the architect, the glass roof above the upper rail system was reduced significantly, and construction timeline was altered. As a result, the architect filed a complaint against Employer. The complaint was upheld later on, and there may therefore be further construction in the future.

3.5 FIDIC YP MEET & GREET COCKTAIL

Of all the times we would have wished time to freeze was this one. Nonetheless, the earth ignored our wishes and kept revolving on its own axis. The clock ticked faster than ever between 18:00 and 19:00 hours on Sunday, 9 September 2018. Hugo's rooftop of InterContinental Hotel provided a wonderful view as the YPs networked, exchanging business cards with one hand, while the other held a glass containing a drink of their choice. Indeed, it was an excellent moment to catch up with colleagues, make new friends, and exchange experiences with YPs from other regions.

3.6 FUTURE LEADERS OUTLOOK



It was the most auspicious moment for YPs to be afforded an exceptional opportunity to host the outlook session within the main FIDIC conference on Tuesday, 11 September 2018, between 16:15 and 17:00 hours. As anticipated – the session was skillfully moderated by **Ms. Jeshika Ramchund**. She ushered in the speakers with a brief introduction, followed by a quick poll, while urging the present generation to assume **generational responsibility** and to seize opportunities as they present themselves. Her words, like a pair of scissors in the hands of a skillful tailor, snipped off the string that held our minds to a generational trap of endless complaints about any of the messes we might have inherited from previous generations. She then quickly knitted together our focus to become a generation of professionals who are adaptable and are aware of social and environmental demands.

Mr. Adam Bialachowski, the new vice chair of FIDIC YPFSC, took the stage and penetrated thought-provoking questions while offering his vision on the future of the industry in his well-articulated discourse, nicknaming FIDIC as **the Uber of Engineering**, while offering futuristic approaches to deal with the imminent technological disruptions. Which has left us with but two options: to reform and adapt, or to stay rigid and remain victims of disruptions.



Mr. Cory Wilson came on board and expressed his passion on the subject of **Talent acquisition and retention**, he spilled the beans in front of industry leaders on the secret recipe necessary to keep and harness the potential of technologically driven future workforce. And it turned out the recipe was not far-fetched, as they only had to make the YPs feel **appreciated, supported, respected** and **empowered**.



Ms. Wafaa Balla came onwards and meticulously saddled the session to the finish line while delivering on **Women in Engineering, YPs needs, Capacity Building** and **Business Integrity**.



The moderator, **Ms. Jeshika Ramchund** winded up the session by introducing a hashtag **#CountMeIn** to be used by all who will be interested to participate in a solutions-driven consultative process aimed at looking on **diversity and inclusivity of gender across age and business sizes**. If you are interested or you would wish to participate in other conversations on FIDIC issues contact FIDIC YPF on our social media platforms with the hashtag **#CountMeIn**

3.7 FIDIC GALA DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Monday, 11 September 2018, between 20:00 and 22:30 hours, Potsdam I&III of the Intercontinental Berlin hosted a memorable evening with its exquisite cuisine and fantastic entertainment. The presentation of the FIDIC Awards 2018 was one of the highlights of the Gala Programme, in which most important projects of the year were recognized, and most specifically, the following YPs received well-deserved awards:

Ms. Jomanah AlBtoush – winner of **FIDIC YP Award 2018**; **Mr. Stanislaus Merlet** – **2018 EFCA YP Award winner**; and **Dr Elisa Meceratini** – **2018 EFCA YP “2nd Runner Up”**. Please, don’t just sit there, clap! They deserve a warm round of applause!



I wish I could tell you how momentous the evening was, but you would think I am bluffing. So let me just flash a few snapshots and you will connect the dots yourself.



4.0 MAJOR CONFERENCE TAKEAWAYS

*It matters most how well you **begin** a journey - ask any failure.*

Friends, I am going to avoid the temptation to unpack the above (seemingly positive) rhetorical-statement dipped in the sands of sarcasm. Instead, I choose to direct all my attention on my attempt to end well this expedition, to me – it matters most how well one **ends** his journey.

I believe all who attended this conference have benefited from the discussions and knowledge shared and no doubt, they will be part of a valuable professional network.

In light of that, allow me to throw in a number of provocative statements/questions as collected over the entire conference period.

✚ A Digitalized Construction Industry. Is it the Future or the Present?

- ✓ Are the available digital solutions fully utilized?
- ✓ Challenges of transition to digitalized processes - (Including huge financial investments and operational disruptions):
 - Evolving technology and volatility in the industry;
 - Urbanization – fast growth of cities;
 - Lacking skills-set in the industry;
 - Politics and governance;
 - Climate change and environmental uncertainties



✚ Let's face it; a Digitalized Construction Industry is Already Here!

- ✓ Build solid partnerships to enhance development of standardized and market-aligned solutions. **"Don't be afraid of partnerships – Grow together"**
- ✓ Business models and aggressive transformation plans to adapt to the evolving technological trends and user requirements
- ✓ Take advantage of social media – Engage stakeholders!

✚ Any Opportunities available in the Industry?

- ✓ Market for smart solutions to meet the infrastructural demands of growing cities and environmental changes.
- ✓ Harnessing the passion of IT driven younger generation – transfer technical and management skills. **Capacity Building + Passion for IT = Empowered Work Force**
- ✓ Investment in digitalized processes creates smart, sustainable and ultimately profitable outputs.

✚ So, what is the Moral of the Story?

- ✓ Take aggressive action, be digitally intentional
- ✓ Align digital and corporate strategy (people first approach)
- ✓ Be open to change
- ✓ Create a strong digital culture
- ✓ Set a common digital language
- ✓ Empower your people!



What other better way to end this journey than with these words: **See you in Mexico City next year!** Yes, Mexico City will proudly host next year’s FIDIC International Infrastructure conference from 8-10 September 2019. So, save the dates, and save some cash too!



Dr Nelson Ogunshakin OBE, the new FIDIC CEO, is an advocate for YPs. One of his mantra is to engage the YPs and to work with them as an integral part FIDIC.

5.0 ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CEO – *Chief Executive Officer*

DNS – *Directorate and Secretariat Meeting*

EC – *Executive Committee*

EFCA – *European Federation Consulting Engineers*

FIDIC – *Fédération Internationale Des Ingénieurs-Conseils (The International Federation of Consulting Engineers)*

OBE – *Order of the British Empire*

YPs – *Young Professionals*

YPF - *Young Professionals Forum*

YPFSC - *Young Professionals Forum Steering Committee*

YPMTP – *Young Professionals Management Training Programme*