

REPORT ON FIDIC YPMTP 2013

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A. Objectives in Joining the Program

As a young professional in the consulting engineering business, I firmly believe that acquiring essential management skills and knowhow is of vital importance in order to successfully face the consulting industry's future challenges. This is one of the reasons why I wanted to participate in the YPMTP 2013. Attending a well structured management training course would surely help me gain the necessary knowledge and experience that would transform me into an effective and successful leader in the industry in the near future.

Moreover, the program would give me the opportunity to meet other young professionals and more importantly, to have a dialogue and active interaction with them regarding the consulting industry and its changes and challenges in the coming years. In particular, it would provide me the chance to share the experiences I obtained from my previous and present jobs as well as from my different consulting assignments. Through my involvement, I would also be able to enhance my leadership skills and capability to plan, organize and collaborate with fellow young professionals in making significant contributions as well as in initiating the necessary changes in the global consulting industry.

B. Experience/Feedback on the Podio On-Line/Virtual Sessions

Firstly, I would like to say that Podio provided an effective and sufficient online work platform for the program. Through this efficient software/tool, we were able to hold the online classes/meetings smoothly and successfully. The technical support and assistance provided by FIDIC staff during and outside the actual virtual sessions also prove to be very helpful in managing or resolving technical problems or issues we encountered.

Regarding the online meetings, the mentors were able to provide adequate and interesting lectures on each topic. While the case studies and case questions sometimes prove to be challenging and time-consuming, they surely helped me and the other participants learn a lot and made our group discussions more dynamic and exciting. One observation though is that majority of the participants (including myself) tend to respond to the case questions at a very late time (i.e., couple of days before the online session). It would be ideal if the future participants in the program could be strongly encouraged to actively participate in the case discussions much earlier.

C. Experience/Feedback on the YPMTP Sessions and FIDIC Conference in Barcelona

The YPMTP sessions in Barcelona offered a wonderful opportunity to reinforce all the lessons and knowhow I gained during the online meetings. More importantly, it gave me the chance to bond with the other young professionals who participated in the program. The mentors were likewise able to successfully facilitate the breakout sessions and I believe that everyone contributed actively in sharing their own experiences and ideas regarding the topics and case studies examined.

However, I would say that the Future Leaders Workshop during the FIDIC conference was the highlight of the YPMTP. Indeed, I was one of the lucky speakers to represent our peers in presenting our concerted ideas and vision for the future role of young professionals in the consulting industry. Based on the very positive comments and feedback from those who attended our presentation, I am definite that our group has truly made a significant impact, demonstrating that each of us has substantially learned and benefited from the YPMTP.

D. Lessons Learned and Knowledge Gained from the YPMTP

In completing the program, I was able to gain the following:

1. Fresh perspectives on management and its interdisciplinary and complex nature;
2. Better appreciation of the important role and potential of young professionals in the consulting industry;
3. Variety of ideas and opinions on how to enhance and improve as well as effectively and successfully carry out my role as a future leader in the industry;
4. Enhanced professional, management and communication skills;
5. Connections and networks with peers from all over the world; and
6. Respect and appreciation for different viewpoints, approaches and cultures in the course of managing and carrying out the consulting business and engineering services.