



# FIDIC YP's 2013 BARCELONA CONFERENCE

## FIDIC 100<sup>th</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Every year, hundreds of young professionals are meeting at this unique conference, somewhere in the world, to discuss and exchange on the best practices, challenges and opportunities in the global consulting engineering industry. Whether you are coming for the first time or you are dedicated member, everyone taking part at the conference finds new means to benefit their business and are modeling and shaping their perspective of our business.



This year was a particularly exceptional year. FIDIC was celebrating its 100 years of contribution to our industry and they put together a special program to highlight the importance of sustainable infrastructure for the years to come. The Keynote speakers came from different industries, giving the delegates a unique and very different way to look at our



industry. Sire Bob Geldof provoked and inspired the audience by giving his personal experience and giving parallels to the business world. M. David Coulthard and M. Mark Gallagher expressed the importance of team work and high performance in their work. With his impressive career path, Dr. Randal Pinkett demonstrated the importance of doing work that benefits communities. M. Lofti El-Ghandouri inspired the audience to think outside the box and to be creative if we want to transform the world, one project at the time. There was many more high profile speakers invited that proved the importance of our industry in building a better quality of life for all.

## 2013 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

On Sunday, the YP Program started with a “YP Meet and Greet” event where all young professional delegates gathered for the first time. This was a great opportunity for those participating in the YPMTP to meet with all the other YP delegates and also the YPF Steering Committee (YPFSC). Ms Selena Wilson, Chair of FIDIC YPFSC gave an introduction speech and YPs mingled before leaving to the Welcome Reception held at the National Museum of Catalan Art where all the YPs would discuss and exchange with the other thousand delegates.



For the first business day, YPs attended the Opening Ceremony, the plenary session and seminars followed by finishing the day with the Local Color Night, outside at the Poble Espanyol where they could take in Spanish culture.

On Tuesday morning, YP Steering Committees members had the opportunity to have a working breakfast with FIDIC's Executive Committee. They discussed the 2013 accomplishments and new opportunities and presented the 2014 YPFSC program. Very positive feedbacks and comments were given ensuring that this year's program will be of high quality and focus toward strengthening our industry.

Following the breakfast meeting, YPs attended a seminar with Dr. Randal Pinket, M. Badr Al-Olama and M. Eric Montminy. Dr. Pinket shared his experience in developing his business where his company is using technological solution to help the communities. M. Al-Olama highlighted the importance of technology, sustainability and training for his company. Finally, M. Montminy discussed the strategy he used in his company to achieve high innovative and quality solutions by introducing the audacity concept throughout its management team.



The full business day ended at the Gala Dinner at Palau Sant Jordi. This special evening gave a unique opportunity for YPs to discuss and exchange on the content that was presented during the past two days. New business relations were created but more importantly new friendships were forged. During the Gala, the Centenary Awards were celebrated by recognizing the contribution of individuals toward building a better quality of life. Awards of Excellence and Merit were given for major building projects, major civil projects and individual/firm nomination.



For the last business day, the YPs had a full day program. Sessions covered the conclusion of the Young Professional Management Training Program, a presentation from the EFCA, ASPAC, and GAMA Young Professional, and a discussion from the Young Professional Forum Steering Committee. Throughout those sessions, YPs had the opportunity to reflect and exchange on the actual trends in our industry but more significantly to express openly to all the delegates and today's leaders their point of view of the consulting engineering future.



After the day's events, the evening started with a technical tour of both the Barcelona desalination plant and the airport. But tours showcase the integration of high technology developed by consulting firms to benefit and sustain the Barcelona population. Following the technical tour, YPs gathered at the Mirabé Restaurant for a final dinner, sponsored by the FIDIC Executive Committee Firms, where they had the opportunity to seal their friendship but also to express their intent in taking part of benefiting the quality of life in their respective part of the globe.

WHAT'S NEXT IN 2014?

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