



NEWSLETTER

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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Chairperson's Message



**Jomanah
AlBtoush
Jordan**

GREETINGS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YPS) AROUND THE WORLD

It's always our great pleasure to have the opportunity to contact you through FIDIC Young Professionals Forum (YPF) newsletter.

In this 28th issue we are sharing with you a lot of diverse articles that show the YPs point of views and challenges. You can read in this issue: The importance of profession updating for YP, report about FIDIC-ACEG European Infrastructure Conference in Tbilisi, report about Symposium Conference "Infrastructure of Peru, Latin America and the World", Stuck in a rut? Have you tried introspection? and an article about FIDIC Webinar 'Urban Sustainability Management'.

It is my honor to report that GAMA and ASPAC YPFSC had a great job on holding a YPs Congress and Forum as part of FIDIC-GAMA Conference in May 2018 in Bamako and FIDIC ASPAC in June 2018 in Colombo,. Well done friends!

Time is fast approaching and YPFSC members are working hardly to arrange a unique and valuable YPs program as part of FIDIC annual infrastructure conference in Berlin in September 2018. We have a lot of events for this year such as:

- Young Professionals Symposium
- Future Leaders Outlook
- Meet & Greet
- Technical Tour
- Announcing 3rd YPs award

For more information about the conference please check: <http://fidic2018.org/en>. and please follow YPs social media pages (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/920579711346409/>) and (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/23096>)

We are looking forward to welcome and meet you all in Berlin....to attend our activities ...to build bridges and channels and networks ...and to unify and spread YPs voice in the industry.

Enjoy the Newsletter!



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**Eleonora
Smargiassi**
Italy

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSION UPDATING FOR YP

The last decades have seen the labor market split into two: on the one hand the young professionals, highly suited to the technological side and launched towards a computerized dimension of project and profession, on the other the old generation that bases its professionalism on an important experiential baggage, based on experience accumulated during years of activity.

The new generation will experience, and with a few years of work will be able to fill the preparation gap that separates them from the old generations. The new technologies, for example the Building Information Modeling systems, are supplanting the old way of working, and young professionals will be more and more requested because they are better able to meet the growing computerization needs that our profession requires.



But we must be careful: what we must continue to focus on is our state of preparedness. Professional updating will be an element that we will never lose sight of, which must always accompany us in our evolution and growth. We should not fall into the presumption of being satisfied with the concepts learned during university studies, but understand that our growth depends on the comparison with peers and other professionals.

In Italy, as in many other European countries and not, enrollment in the professional register requires a minimum number of credits to be acquired each year. Often this prescription is seen as an imposition: it must instead become an opportunity. Opportunities to discover new cultural and professional paths; opportunities to actively approach the life of professional register; opportunities to consolidate or extend our network of contacts. We, young professionals, must not be tied to stereotypes or pre-set paths: we must be able to build our future in an increasingly changing working environment.



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The real challenge of training is in the ability to enhance our features of young professionals, requiring the overcoming of the rigidity of the training paths that mortify creativity and intellectual liveliness that is proper to us. Our peculiarities, consisting of having open minds, resilient tools, sometimes audacious visions capable of imagining what is not yet fully accomplished, must accompany our formative journey, in order not to lock ourselves in the certainties reached and always aim at obtaining the best. The richness of our profession, in fact, lies in the scientific method that gives us resilience and versatility: it is the method of science, the self-corrective approach that allows us to expose theses and refute them.

FIDIC provides us with a considerable amount of training, the opportunity to participate in courses both online and face to face: an entire page of the site is dedicated to training, with a wide choice of topics.

For the Young Professionals, manager of tomorrow, it is also expected the Young Professional Management Training Programme: an intensive management training programme based on case studies and discussions of management issues within an international team of participants and mentors.

Furthermore, participation in the countless scheduled conferences and above all the FIDIC international infrastructure conferences, allows us to broaden knowledge, deepen topics and enter the world of work and management.

As Stephen Hawking teaches us "**the greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is illusion of knowledge**".





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Charles Frank

Tanzania

MY TAKE ON FIDIC WEBINAR - URBAN SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT (Based on ISO 37101 Standard)

As I look back on Monday, 22 January 2018, 17:30-18:30 Central European Time (Geneva time) I suddenly realize I had made the most excellent decision to register for a webinar by FIDIC Sustainable development Committee (SDC).



I participated in one among a series of one-hour awareness-raising webinars (organized by FIDIC, UNEP, ISOCARP, ICLEI, and the Global Cities Institute) offering participants the opportunity to discuss Urban Sustainability Management and receive a comprehensive yet condensed understanding of the ISO 37101 standard and supporting tools.

Please travel with me through the next few paragraphs as I tip my hat to the standardization bodies from some 50 countries that joined forces with ISO to develop a common language and methodology for implementing urban sustainability management. An immediate outcome of which was the ISO 37101 standard published in July 2016.

Being a young Engineer – (just emerging in the Construction Industry) my heart was set ablaze as I tuned-in to interact with experts who had been involved in drafting the standard and developing its tools. And while I spent most the time engaged in observing the on-going presentations, be ye assured, you can take the experience I gained to any bank – and they will tell you it is worth a million dollars!



It was thrilling to know that ISO 37101 has been designed to help communities define their sustainable development objectives and put in place a strategy to achieve them. Moreover, like other management system standards it is based on continual improvement and the PDCA



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(Plan-Do-Check-Act) approach, which means users are required to adjust regularly their objectives and strategy to ensure they are constantly moving forward.



This is where the rubber meets the road; ISO 37101 defines "sustainable development" as development that meets the environmental, social and economic needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

I was awestruck by this awareness and challenged all at the same time, as I pondered on the efforts put forth by all those individuals (and/or organizations) that had participated in one way or the other to initiate, develop and to push forward all matters relating to Sustainability Development Goals. And I knew that, eventually (just like in a relay race) this baton of responsibility will soon be passed to my generation.

The six purposes of sustainability, and twelve sustainability issues (or action areas) discussed during this webinar, pierced through and spoke directly to the knowledge I have attained during my current involvement in an urban development project.

As you are aware, only struck matches catch aflame, this one-hour awareness webinar has certainly done its work in me, by igniting a passion to develop my understanding on Urban Sustainability Management and all issues pertaining Sustainability Development. And I look forward to be a part of the global community that is so dedicated not only in meeting its own present needs, but on ensuring the future generations are not deprived in meeting their needs as well. These pursuits stems from selfless and generous hearts.



Once again, I extend my tribute to the FIDIC Secretariat and most specifically to Mr. Jean Félix, Chair of the FIDIC Sustainability Committee, on behalf of all those individuals behind this FIDIC Webinar Platform.



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If it happens they feel their efforts are not reaching anywhere, I would wish to encourage them by pointing out some attributes of a river, an extract from an old tale.



Consider the river. It starts as but a small stream in the distant mountains. Sometimes it flows slowly, sometimes quickly, but always it sails downward, taking the low ground as its course. It willingly permeates every crack in the earth and willingly embraces every crevice in the land, so humble is its nature. When we listen to the water, it

can scarcely be heard. When we touch it, it can scarcely be felt, so gentle is its nature.

Yet in end, what happens to this calm and quiet river?

For as it was, so it is, so it will always be: forever flowing, growing deeper, broader, ever more powerful as it journeys down to the ocean, providing life and sustenance to all."



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**Jose Rodrigo
Juarez Cornelio**

Mexico



**André Jabir
Assumpção**

Brazil

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN LATIN AMERICA: INFRASTRUCTURE IN PERU, LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD



It was a great pleasure to attend the Symposium Conference "Infrastructure of Peru, Latin America and the World" organized by the Peruvian Association of Consultants (APC), organized under the framework of their 50th anniversary. During this full one-day event, the participation of the Pan-American

Federation of Consulting Engineers (FEPAC) and the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) was fundamental to make this event richer in international matters.

Welcome The event was officially inaugurated by Eng. Jaime Saavedra, current president of the APC. He gave some welcome words and appreciated the presence of the international guests. He briefly described the formation of the APC and how it has maintained until these days. It was with great honor that he introduced the following speakers and proceeded with the Symposium.

The Role of FIDIC & FEPAC: The word was handed to Mr. Alain Bentéjac (France), current President of FIDIC, where he spoke about the World problematics in the development of Infrastructure. He provided a view in the role of FIDIC to achieve great infrastructure based on FIDIC's main pillars: Quality, Integrity and Sustainability. He reiterated the global objective of being the Global Voice of Consulting Engineers and stressed the importance of collaborating with Latin American Countries through FEPAC and the MAs that together, make FIDIC community stronger.

After his words, Eng. Angel Ferrigno (Argentina), current president of FEPAC proceeded to speak about the main and most common problems that are encountered with the development of infrastructure in Latin America, stressing the difficulty of having secure investments, the main reasons for conflicts and the importance of having OBS System. He concluded with the



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compromise to increase the participation of more Latin American Countries within the FIDIC community.

Local & International Best Practices and Experiences:

The event proceeded with the presentation of more distinguished speakers. The following speaker was Eng. William Howard (USA), FIDIC Vice president. He proceeded to speak about the Resilience to Natural Resources, stressing his experience in Flood Control Strategies, and discussion of the recent problematics in Peru, where he presented some global consequences, required actions for prevention and mitigation measures.



Because of recent problematics in Peru, an obvious question was raised. Is the lack of preparedness influenced by corruption? The next speaker, Dr. Jorge Diaz Padilla (Mexico), former FIDIC President and current President of the Integrity Committee began his presentation. His topic: Integrity as a tool for fighting and preventing corruption in Infrastructure projects. He stressed about the current challenges in Latin America,

FIDIC's Integrity best practices, the tools FIDIC has for preventing corruption and the recommendation for implementing FIDIC Integrity Management System (FIMS).

The following speakers, Dr. Angel Unchupaico, Governor of the province of Junin (Peru) proceeded to speak about the current infrastructure projects that have been developed and that are being planned, stressing the importance of infrastructure development for increasing the competitiveness of each region in Peru.



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Young Professionals: After some interesting presentations, it was the opportunity of the FIDIC Young Professionals to participate. Rodrigo and Andre spoke about the FIIDC Young Professionals Forum Steering Committee (YPFSC), our objectives, mission, vision and activities, including the Young Professionals management Training Programme (YPMTP). During our presentation, we also stressed the importance of having the participation of Young Professionals as the future of our industry, as the successors of the Consulting companies in which we develop and the importance of allowing the participation of YPs in such important events like this one. We both presented the initiatives we have for our countries, with the support of the National Chamber of Consulting Companies (CNEC Mexico) and the Brazilian Association of Consulting Engineers (ABCE Brazil), were we also invited members from the FEPAC region to join, presenting the initiative to create a regional group, as FEPAC region is currently the only MA that does not have a consolidated YPF that participates actively in FIDIC activities.

The initiative was well received. Compromise from young Peruvian consultants was manifested. Colombian Chamber of Infrastructure, Argentina and Paraguay also demonstrated their support to include YPs. Mexican and Brazilian senior professionals reaffirmed their commitment as FIDIC & FEPAC MAs. In general, the presentation caused a great impact, we invited the participants to reflect and consider about the future of our industry.





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Local & International Best Practices and Experiences

(continuation): After our participation, some other international experiences were shared. Some more distinguished speakers such as Eng. Henrique de Aragao (Brazil), Luis Villaroya (Spain) and Eng. Francisco Daza (Colombia), spoke about the modality of financing for infrastructure in their respecting countries. They spoke about the challenges they are facing and what has been done to improve the projects. Finally, the last presentation was done by Dr. Reyes Juarez (Mexico), current FIDIC EC Member and FEPAC Past-President, where he spoke about the different modalities of Public Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Projects.

Closure: The event concluded with the signing of the Lima Manifest. A document that stated the participation of the President of FIDIC, FEPAC and APC, where they formally appreciated the attendance of the international participants and compromised to a closer relationship between the Latin American Countries with FIDICs international Community.

It was a great pleasure and of course, a great experience to attend this great event in a city like Lima. The hospitality received, the attention provided by APC and the great collaboration from FIDIC members was a great way to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Consulting Industry in one of the most active countries in Latin America.



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Rafat Al Bouri

Saudi Arabia

MY EXPERIENCE IN ATTENDING FIDIC-ACEG EUROPEAN INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE IN TBLISI

It has been great experience attending and speaking in FIDIC-ACEG European Infrastructure Conference that was held in Biltmore Hotel of Tbilisi between 6 and 7 March 2018, and I thank FIDIC-ACEG for such a wonderful opportunity.

The event was well arranged by FIDIC and ACEG (Association of Consulting Engineers Georgia), sponsored by PS Consulting, and DCR Dispute Resolution Center, while being supported by DRBF (Dispute Resolution Board Foundation) and EFCA (European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations).

The two day sessions of the conference were full of valuable information discussing various aspects of best practices from different perspectives (including Employer, Engineer and Contractor), the main topics of the sessions were as follows:

The Changes from 1999 to 2017: The presenters discussed the changes and applications of the new edition of Red, Yellow and Silvers Books. It was discussed that the new editions mainly on the enhancement of project management tools and mechanisms, clarity and certainty, the balance of risks between the parties, the role of the engineer, and the standing DAAB (Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication Board).

The Need for Contract Administration: The importance of a proper Contract administration by qualified resources from all parties, including the Employer, Engineer, and Contractor was deeply discussed in the conference. It discussed how to ensure that construction conforms to construction documents and lessen project risks and resolve issues early on the spot. It also discussed ways of communication and minimization of the gaps in early reporting and identification of problems.



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There were also major discussions on Contractor's difficulty in turning their claims into cash due to improper contemporary records, failure to provide cause and effect, and inability to quantify their disruption or acceleration claims.

The Role of Engineer and its Challenges: The role of the engineer from different perceptivities and the common issues of independency, qualifications, contract administration and determinations were deeply discussed in the conference. It was highlighted that the Engineer's issues were common on most of the represented countries.

The Engineer has obligations and tasks all over the conditions of contract which shall be administered appropriately, such as SC 4.7 Setting Out, SC 10.2 Taking Over Parts, SC 11.2 Cost of Remedying Effects – Engineer's determination, SC 12.1 Works to be Measured, CS 12.3 Valuation of the Works, SC 13.3.1 Variation by Instruction, SC 13.3.2 Variation by Request for Proposal, SC 13.5 Daywork, SC 14.04 Schedule of Payments, SC 14.5 Plant and Materials intended for the Works, SC 14.6 Issue of IPC, SC 15.3 Valuation of Termination for Contractor's Default and SC 15.6 for Employer's Default, SC 18.5 Optional Termination, SC 20.1 Claims and SC 20.2 Claims for Payment and/or EOT.

In addition to above, the Engineer is an agent of the Employer and shall perform the following tasks on the Employer's behalf; administer the contract, be the technical advisor, ensures payments goes as planned, assure and control quality of the Works and keep records in accordance with the project's requirements.

The Importance of Standing DAAB: It was discussed that the dominant reason for disputes which cannot be resolved on site is the lack of documented proof as their basis for contractual entitlement 'claims'. The disputes arise from lack of effective communication, lack of professional project management procedures,, lack of mutual respect and lack of social skills, as truths and interpretations. The session was concluded with the following statement:



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"The Most Effective DAAB is The One That Never gets called into Action! And if it does, will be able to decide quickly, fairly, and honestly based on factual merit, acquire the trust of the parties as they know the facts to be true, incur the parties the least costs in the process". (*Leo Grutters*)

Other Relevant Topics: In addition to the above topics widely discussed during the conference, other topics were also presented including best practices in adapting the FIDIC forms of contracts and agreement to national requirements in the central eastern European and Eurasian region.

Also, various cases studies were presented by experts and professionals in the conference including construction lifecycle, variations, delay analysis and payment issues in great detail. Another session discussed how FIDIC's 1999 and 2017 deals with time from Lawyers perspective comparing common law and civil law.

Conference Workshop: The program started on 5 March 2018 with an intensive workshop discussing the changes in FIDIC's forms of contracts in 2017's edition, followed by the two day sessions of the conference, then a final workshop discussing the role and importance of DAAB as standing board and attended by various professionals.

Great examples, cases, applications and differences between the 1999 and 2017 editions were discussed deeply and interactively.

Networking and Social Activities: The conference was attended by decent professionals, and expert matters. The networking during the conference and out of the conference was very usual to learn different applications of FIDIC's terms and conditions in other countries and entities.

The City, Tbilisi, and its nationals were quite kind and very welcoming that made the conference and chemistry between the attendees stronger.

A Great Experience...!



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**Jeshika
Ramchund**

South Africa

STUCK IN A RUT? HAVE YOU TRIED INTROSPECTION?

There are often times, when it feels like our professional lives and career development stagnates. Often, we justify this period as a passing phase, by rationalizing: the economic slump, projects placed on hold, project budgetary challenges, a new business manager, or restructuring of the business.



In technical terms, a locus is defined as a position where something occurs, or is situated. In the 1960's Julian Rotter conducted a study on how people's behavior and attitude affected the outcomes of their lives. He applied this mathematical principle to psychological behavioral patterns. The study showed that the most successful people tend to internalize their locus of control by believing that the outcomes of their lives and work is determined by hard work, their attitudes and decisions. Whilst dissatisfied people are fueled by an external locus of control, in the hope that somehow miraculously, things will fall into place. Therefore, through introspection, the examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes, we can greatly improve our productivity for a better outcome and to achieve our full potential.

On my quest to improve my productivity and to "give life" to my to-do list and turn my thoughts into action, I was inspired by an article I read. The article published by the Harvard Business Review titled "7 Traits of Super-Productive People" inspired me to think about the improvements I could make in the way in which I work and integrate with my team members. Applying these principles to the challenges often experienced by young professionals, we can learn the following from super-productive people:

Set stretch goals: Setting stretch goals is a method of aggregating tasks into a significant project size to enable you to work at pace and remove distractions. The apparent contradiction to breaking up tasks into smaller more manageable chunks, is that they disconnect the



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tasks in a random way and reduces productivity.

Show consistency: Delivering consistently reinforces reliability. These super-productive people have stable productivity levels tackling tasks as they arise, shying away from procrastination and panicked, erratic workflow. This is not an easy feat, as much of the deliverables on a project are dependent on external stakeholders and team members playing their part and sticking to the agreed timeframes.

Have knowledge and technical expertise: This is not typically a challenge for engineers who pride themselves on academic qualifications and technical experience. However, your tertiary qualification will get you to the door but it's your experience and the enhancement of your skills and widening of your knowledge base that will ensure that you complete your tasks in a manner that is of a high quality and delivered timeously, that keeps opening new doors.

Drive for results: Challenging yourself you be and to do more, creates a healthy level of competition between colleagues, team members and yourself. Being driven to realize results sooner sets self-imposed challenges to optimize performance and results.

Anticipate and solve problems: Productive people are excellent problem-solvers and employ creative solutions to improve their productivity. They anticipate challenges and innovate solutions around problems. Termed mental contrasting, super-productive people think about what they want to achieve, of the barriers between them and the goal and of how to counteract the problem.

Take initiative: For many super-productive people, they don't delay on starting a task, and never have to be reminded to commence. They think ahead and begin to do preparatory work on tasks assigned.

Be collaborative: Despite having immense individual strengths and traits, super-productive people are intuitive team players who work well with others. They are firm and clear in their actions and on what they expect of others.



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Super-productive people seem to get it all done as if by magic, but super-productivity is a set of skills that we can acquire and utilize. So, to get a hold of your productivity and to get back into the driving seat of your own development, internalizing your locus of control is critical.

There is a wealth of information and tools to demonstrate the concept of internalizing your locus of control by improving your productivity to enhance growth and development. By investing in yourself, and by actively engaging in activities that will develop your knowledge, skills and abilities in line with your field of expertise, success is inevitable.

Irish Playwright, George Bernard Shaw wrote, "The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them".

Image credit: <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/283899>



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Cory Wilson

Canada

HOW INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION CAN ENHANCE YOUR CAREER

I recently had the opportunity to present to a group of young professionals on the benefits of volunteering with industry associations. These groups might include technical associations (e.g. Institute of Transportation Engineers) or a professional group, such as FIDIC. There are many different associations out there depending on your field of practice and geographic location.



Having been involved with several different industry associations, I have experienced numerous benefits to my professional career and personal life and it has also benefited my firm. I have realized that many of these benefits may not be initially obvious to young professionals entering the industry. I hope to cover some of these advantages in this article for the benefit of others.

Professional Career

Knowledge Transfer: There is clearly a lot to learn from participation with industry associations. The formal learning through courses and conferences are obvious, but there is also a lot that can be learned by working closely with industry colleagues, including technical and professional knowledge transfer. By working with highly motivated individuals, you can develop mentors within your own demographic rather than relying only on the traditional senior/junior relationship.

Professional Network: When involved with industry associations, you will work collaboratively with your peers, which may include competitors and clients. Working alongside clients has clear benefits as establishing relationships with the people that you work for, or want to work for, makes it easier to secure and deliver on projects.

Getting to know a client outside of a project relationship allows you to learn about their objectives, priorities, and communication style prior to working for them. Working with competitors also has advantages



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as it helps you develop an understanding for what is happening in your industry. Furthermore, there may be opportunities to partner in the future and one day they could move to become a client or join your firm as a colleague. You never know how your relationships will evolve as your careers progress.

Career Progression: Industry participation can help progress your career. Both of the factors discussed above will make you an excellent candidate to transition into the next role in your career. Industry participation is also a great indicator of a positive work ethic and passion for your career and the knowledge gained will help you be successful in your new role.

Personal Life

The benefits of industry participation extend beyond just your professional career and extend into your personal life. Through my years of industry participation, I have developed some lifelong friends from all over the world. I have also had the opportunity to travel to some amazing international destinations to participate in conferences and meetings. The experience of volunteering is also very rewarding and has given me the feeling that I am participating in my career, rather than just having a job.

Corporate

Your involvement in industry associations can be a great benefit to your firm. It can be particularly useful when seeking new recruits. Through your industry involvement, you will develop a good understanding of the skills and reputations of others in the industry. Your relationships with others can also make a convincing reason why they would want to join your firm when looking for new opportunities.

I have had tremendous success hiring individuals that I have met through industry participation as I was already aware of their strengths and likelihood for success.





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This may not seem relevant in the earlier stages of your career, but as your career develops you may take on the role of hiring team members, or at least having a say in who would be a good candidate. Your success will likely be tied to the success of your team, so it is in your best interest to help build the best team possible.

Another benefit for the firm is retention. By supporting individuals in their roles with industry associations, it shows respect and appreciation. That goes a long way towards job satisfaction and dedication to the firm, something that is hard to match through salary or other employee benefits. Finding and replacing good employees is very costly and could ultimately have an impact on the firm's success.



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FIDIC GAMA CONFERENCE 2018, BAMAKO MALI

The 2018 FIDIC – GAMA Conference on Infrastructure was held at the Laico L’Amitie Hotel in Bamako, Mali from 6th to 9th May 2018. This conference attracted over 150 attendees from across the globe.

Themed “Aligning the Consulting Engineer’s role to the Vision of Africa’s Infrastructure Development, the conference hosted over 36 speakers over 3 days. The Conference commenced with parallel sessions of the Director’s and Secretaries Meeting aimed at the Member Association’s Secretariat to foster communication and co-operation across GAMA members, and the 2nd Annual GAMA Young Professionals Congress.

The GAMA Young Professionals Congress was well attended, with over 70 delegates who participated and shared the GAMA YPFSC in promoting the role of Young Professional’s. The Congress commenced with Amanda-Masondo Mkhize (representing CESA YPF & GAMA YPF) and Wafaa Balla (representing FIDIC YPFSC), shared the GAMA and FIDIC vision, activities and progress made to date. Jeshika Ramchund-Moonsamy (representing CESA YPF, GAMA and FIDIC YPFSC) and Godfrey Ramalisa (representing Consulting Engineers South Africa) presented the YPF Best Practice Guidelines and Toolkit for mobilization of YP’s in Member Associations and within GAMA to start new YPF groupings and to enhance existing structures.

The morning was concluded by motivational talks on Unleashing your true potential, “An honest perspective on what it takes to be the best you” by Dr Snowy Khoza, Chairperson of Bigen Africa and Mme Diallo Marie Traore, President of OICM and Siraba Engineering on Enhancing the role of Young professionals in Africa delving into what Africa needs from its young engineers.

The afternoon included an Interactive Brainstorming Session on the role of the Young Professional in Sustainable Development to mitigate Climate Change – Urban Planning, Mobility Water & Sanitation hosted by Eng. Yousouff Fane and other YP’s from Mali. The Congress concluded with the adoption and resolutions of the YP Congress by



**Jeshika
Ramchund**
South Africa



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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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Alassane Bamba, Secretary General of OICM YPF and closing remarks by Immediate Past Chairperson of GAMA and Chairman of Associated Consultants Limited.



YP Congress Attendees

The Main Conference covered various sub-themes including:

- Contribution of African engineering in the realization of intelligent and resilient infrastructures (buildings, water, energy, transport, mines) to climate change;
- Integration of African infrastructures into major socio-economic investment and poverty reduction strategies;
- New mechanisms for financing infrastructure;
- Importance of the Consulting Engineer's input in the formulation of the policies and related legislation for infrastructure development;
- Opportunities for collaboration between Consulting Engineers in Africa in the development of infrastructure;
- Preparing for regional / cross-border infrastructure projects;
- Capacity Building and Evolution of Skills / Technologies to Maximize the Impact of Consulting Engineers in Infrastructure Development and
- Current and Future Impact and Role of Local Consulting Engineers in Infrastructure Development.

Conference Presentations are available at: <https://www.fidic-gama2018.com/presentations/>

The social events provided an exciting end to each day's activities. The Welcome Reception Cocktail dinner took place poolside at the Hôtel LAICO de l'Amitié. The live band and entertainment, coupled with plentiful food and drinks set the scene for a festive start to the



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conference social events.



YP Congress Attendees with Members of GAMA Exco

The Gala Dinner, held at the newly renovated Sheraton Hotel exceeded all culinary and cultural expectations. The surprise performance by Award winning entertainer Salif Keita brought the dinner to a splendid close. The Local Colour night, at Parc National, was a grand event that was enhanced by traditional Malian food and folkloric music and dancing.

The 2019 FIDIC-GAMA Conference is set to take place in Kampala, Uganda.



YP Presenters on behalf of FIDIC, GAMA and CESA YPF



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FIDIC ASPAC CONFERENCE 2018 – COLOMBO SRI LANKA

The 2018 FIDIC ASPAC Conference was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from the 24th to 26th July 2018, at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). The conference theme was, “Infrastructure Connectivity in the ASPAC Region” and with the continued growth in the region, volume of infrastructure projects and the growing ability for consulting engineers to work globally this is a very important topic.

The conference had more than 200 delegates attend over the two and a half days, with a noticeably large contingent from China of over 50 and a vibrant contingent of local Young Professionals (YPs).

Arriving on Saturday 23rd, I took the chance to go exploring around Colombo, including a few tuk tuk trips which gave an interesting perspective to the road rules or at least the local interpretation, as it would appear there is little use for the line markings!



Ridina around Colombo in a Tuk Tuk

Registration for the conference started in the middle of the day on Sunday followed by a number of meetings for the various committees, a business forum and ending with the ‘meet and greet’ welcome reception hosted by the Sri Lankan YPs.

The ASPAC YPFSC Meeting was held and chaired by Takashi Matsuo, ASPAC YP Chair. A large proportion of the Sri Lankan YPs attended along with a mix of the other YPs and interested individuals. Some key points discussed were:

- Sri Lankan YP Forum started recently for the ASPAC Conference, with 18 members now.
- There is a growing challenge to make YP’s relevant & get support from member firms.
- The disruptive nature of the industry is a challenge, but an opportunity for YP’s which are typically more dynamic.

After the YP Meeting the ASPAC Executive Committee Meeting was held concurrently with a Business Forum. I attended the business forum to



Hugh Tait

Australia



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Sri Lankan YPs at the YP Hosted Welcome Reception

to listen to the local businesses, what they do and what projects they have been involved in. I really didn't know what to expect going into this forum, however was really impressed by the passion of each of the presenters on their businesses, the wide variety of projects and the scope of services offered locally. It was great to see the amount of local involvement with a significant number of large scale developments and highway projects going on throughout the Country and in particular Colombo.

We concluded the day with a wonderful welcome function hosted by the Sri Lankan YPs, with some local food, although the beer was unfortunately not so local and treated to traditional Sri Lankan performances throughout the evening.

The conference started with the entrance of the Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development, accompanied by other dignitaries. This was followed by the traditional oil lamp lighting and national anthem.

Then we were welcomed by the President ACESL Eng. Kirthi S Senanayake, Chairman FIDIC ASPAC Mr. Liu Luobing and FIDIC Executive Committee Member Mr. Anthony Barry. During his welcome Mr. Anthony Barry made a statement regarding young professionals that really had relevance, young professionals need to be allowed to "Take charge in creating the world they want not the world we give them".

From my discussions with a wide variety of delegates at the conference (both young and not so young) it was quite clear to me that there is not



Traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony, Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka



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consistency across the ASPAC Region in allowing young professionals to take charge of the industry. It would appear that this has a little to do with the cultures and practices in each country and also the drive from the young professionals to do so in each country.

The papers presented on day 1 of the conference were all insightful, technically focused and very interesting. With papers including topics on FIDIC Contracts, new technologies and the current investment in Sri Lankan infrastructure. The papers that I took strong messages away from were:

- Dr. Pradeep Perera, 'Renewable Energy Capacity Procurement Policy of India and Lessons Learnt'.
- Dr. Tissa Liyanage, 'Implications due to an Integration of Public Transport Terminals for overall Efficiency of Transport Network'.
- Eng Major Nisshanka Wijeratne, 'Infrastructure Development in Sri Lankan Perspective'.

Dr. Perera outlined the journey India has taken in growing their reliance on renewable energy to the extent they now have targets of 30-35% renewables. The growing renewable demand has resulted in a



Traditional Dancing at the Welcome Reception

competitive market place with renewables now a more cost effective source of power than coal! Dr. Liyanage's statement that, "More roads equals more traffic.....always", was deliberately provocative and accurate. With Eng Wijeratne, outlining some of Sri Lanka's transport constraints, with the railway network having not changed since its construction

85 years ago and the cost of new highways being constructed now accounting for 20% of foreign debt and growing quickly.

At the end of last session of day 1 Enrico Vink, FIDIC CEO, approached me and asked me to fill in for him as the moderator for the first session on day 2, which I excitedly accepted and I was given the briefing notes for the three presenters to read up on.



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Day 1 ended with the Welcome Reception, which was held at the Western Terrace of BMICH. This event allowed for a wonderful opportunity to network with the other delegates over a drink, whilst being entertained with amazing local performances and enjoying a vast array of local food.

It was great to be able to moderate the first session of the second day, having read about the presenters the night before it was a pleasure to meet them and get the session started. The three speakers during my session were speaking about quite diverse topics, from Japan, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka, being:



Hugh Tait Moderating Session 1 - Day 2

- Atsushi Nishikori, 'Marmaray Railway Project'.
- Ir. Ian Chung, 'How Infrastructures benefit the Community from Hong Kong Experience'.
- Prof. Rangika Halwatura, 'Carrying the Legacy Forward'.

The Marmaray Railway Tunnel is a very interesting project, but more importantly it epitomises everything about the conference theme as it is a 13.5km tunnel connecting Asia to Europe. This was a project that used a significant amount of ASPAC Region technology to create a project that had been over 150 years in the making. During the Ir. Chung's presentation on Hong Kong was the population density, with it being in places more than 50 times greater per square kilometre than Sydney in Australia where I live. The scale of the infrastructure projects in Hong Kong are significant and in many ways unique, though with many lessons for the APSAC region as it continues to grow.

Prof. Halwatura's presentation really brought the focus back from mega projects connecting the region to engineers connecting the communities in the region with the bare essentials they need to live a better life. It was certainly a presentation that I will not forget for a long time and reminded me, and hopefully everyone else at the conference, the power engineers have in making the lives of those in our communities not only better but humane.



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The session after lunch was the Young Professionals Open Forum, which was chaired by Prof. Rangika Halwatura and Takashi Matsuo. Takashi gave an update on what the ASPAC YP Group had been able to achieve in the past year, which was followed by the announcement of a new ASPAC YP Award which will be presented for the first time at the FIDIC ASPAC Conference 2019.



Takashi Matsuo Co-Hosting the YP Forum

There were then three papers presented by YPs, which was a great opportunity for all three presenters and they were selected from quite a hotly contested field of papers submitted, being:

- Dr. Zhouo Sheng, 'Engineering Consultancy in the New Era of Everything Connected'.
- Chatura Sanjeeva, 'Nature based Solutions for Water from the perspective of Young Water Professionals Sri Lanka'.
- Himalsha Rupasinghe, 'Vertical Greening – A sustainable approach for Greener Cities'.

It was a really great experience to have the Young Professionals Forum as part of the main conference program, with the interest shown by the whole conference delegation validating its inclusion.

The Gala Dinner was held at the conference hotel the, Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel, where we not only once again were fed and watered extremely well, but got to see some unique entertainment and further closing addresses. The music for the evening was provided by the Engineers Band, made up completely of Sri Lankan Engineers!



Sri Lankan Engineers Band at the Gala Dinner

Being my first time in Sri Lanka, I sought advice before coming from my Sri Lankan friends in Australia, who all recommended getting out of Colombo and seeing the countryside. After looking at the three technical



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tour options the 2 day tour looked great so I signed up! We had a small group of four for the tour which worked very well, with 2 guides and the delegates being from Japan, India and myself from Australia.

We were picked up early Wednesday morning which was a bit rigorous for all of us after enjoying the Gala Dinner the night before, however we were quickly on the road with the traffic being better than normal due to it being the Poson Full Moon Poya holiday. This holiday commemorates the introduction of Buddhism into Sri Lanka. One of the interesting traditions on this holiday is the giving away of food and drink by the villages on the side of the road, with the stalls attracting long queues of people and somewhat slowing down the traffic with cars pulling over to receive their servings.



Elephants at the Pinnawala Elephant

The first stop on the tour was the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage which gives you the opportunity to see a number of elephants together and up close. It certainly did not disappoint as we were able to get within touching distance of the elephants (though respectfully not touching them). The tour notes gave more information about the history of the elephant orphanage, "The orphanage was established in 1975 and commenced with seven orphaned elephants. Today some of these orphans enjoy the fortune of seeing their calves born in the same location. Assisted by local and foreign elephant experts, Pinnawala commenced a successful captive breeding program and the first baby elephant was born in 1984."

We had lunch at one of the motels overlooking the elephants, which was very peaceful and relaxing, having spent a few days in Colombo and then the long drive to get there. After a bit of souvenir shopping, we went on to see the elephant feeding where the baby elephants are bottle fed.

We proceeded onto Kandy where we were to see a bit of the city and also visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, however when we arrived at the Temple the queues were hours long due to the Poson Full



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Moon Poya holiday. Our guides suggested we postpone our Temple tour until the morning, proposing to instead have a walk around the Kandy Lake. The walk around the lake allowed us to see the Temple from a different perspective of the Temple and experience local stalls and entertainers, which included a snake charmer which I had never seen in person before.

The tour notes gave us more information on the importance of Kandy, "Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan Kings, and is a World Heritage Site. The name Kandy conjures visions of splendour and magnificence. Many of the legends, traditions and folklore are still lovingly kept alive. Drive around the Kandy Lake built by the last Sinhala King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe in 1798."

We stayed at Hotel Topaz which although out the main Kandy town centre, preventing us being able to have a look around, was up on an adjacent hill giving us excellent views and a very peaceful evening.



Tooth Relic

We all got going early to make up time lost by not being able to see the Tooth Relic the afternoon before, but it was well worth it! The long queues were gone (in fact no queues at all) and we had much better access to see the Tooth Relic and the rest of the temple. With shoes off at the entrance, we explored the many sections of the temple, with a highlight being a storyline of the history of the tooth relic, with it having being taken and given back by the British amongst a long and storied history. We also learnt that the temple had been attacked in the form of a massive truck bomb and significantly damaged in 1998.

As we got on our way from Kandy to the Moragahakanda Dam, our guides offered us the chance to have a quick stop at a Gem Museum which we accepted. It was very interesting to understand that traditional mining techniques are still used, with the museum including a mock mine shaft, a video on the mining techniques and a wide variety of gems from not only Sri Lanka, but around the World.



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We arrived at the Moragahakanda Dam, and were given a personal tour of the dam and power generation facilities, by some young engineers who had worked on the project. Water from the Moragahakanda Reservoir is primarily used to support agricultural needs downstream and this restricts the power generation to some degree. The Hydroelectric Power Station is capable of producing 25 megawatts produced via four turbines, two 7.5 megawatt and two 5 megawatt. Due to the constraints of the agricultural needs the power station has only been tested at full capacity during commissioning and typically runs currently with the two 7.5 megawatt turbines at half capacity.



The Downstream Side of the Moragahakanda Dam

The tour notes gave us more information about the dam, "The Moragahakanda Dam is a large gravity dam, and the main component of the larger and more complex Moragahakanda – Kalu Ganga Project, currently under construction across the Amban River at Elahera, in the Matale District of Sri Lanka. Construction began on 25 January 2007. The maiden waters of the dam were released in January 2017. Morgahakanda/Kaluganga project is the last of the Great Mahaveli project."



Tour Group drinking Fresh Coconuts

The last stop on the tour was at a spice garden, which gave us a chance to see all the different spices growing in one garden, as well as some of the products made from the spices.

The tour notes gave more information about the history and importance of spices to Sri Lanka, "Spices are an essential element of the cuisine of Sri Lanka and the Ayurvedic tradition. Visit a garden specializes in the cultivation of these substances and get to know excellent the purposes and new uses of certain ingredients. You will find cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, vanilla, cardamom, black pepper and many more in the spice garden. During the period of Dutch, Sri Lanka was very famous for spices and we



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exported to different countries. That has earned the country the name of 'Island of the spices'."

After visiting the spice farm we had earned ourselves a long trip back to Colombo, with the holiday from the day before now over the traffic was back and we were travelling at the end of the business day. As we got close to Kandy the traffic was so bad we detoured on a longer route to the northwest which took us towards to the airport and then the motorway back into Colombo.

I would like to really thank our two guides Fazil and Nadeeka, who made the 2 days a really good experience. They were able to tailor on the fly to our needs and even had a reasonable sense of humour when it came to the seemingly endless traffic jam!

My first visit to Sri Lanka was a wonderful experience, with everyone I met being very welcoming and enthusiastic to share their culture. I found of particular interest the volume of construction in Colombo which I hadn't expected and am particularly fascinated by the Port City Development.



FIDIC ASPAC Conference Stage Beginning of

The conference was extremely well run with very interesting papers, albeit mostly very technical (I know we were all engineers). I couldn't cover everything in this article, but I hope you enjoyed reading about my highlights!

I would like to thank Dr Kamal Laksiri and his Sri Lankan organising committee for hosting a wonderful conference and being extremely welcoming and willing to assist.

A great deal of thanks must also go to Enrico Vink and FIDIC for continuing to support the young professionals forum.



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Communications

Chairperson

FIDIC YPF-SC



Wafaa Balla

Sudan

HOW TO BECOME PART OF THE FIDIC YPF GROUP

Become part of this young dynamic group of people and receive updates, newsletters and information on upcoming events such as FIDIC conferences and training opportunities.

International YPF Groups: find out what the YPs in your country are doing and how to connect with them! Please register on the YPF homepage listed below.

Once we have your details, we will send you our newsletter and other info as it comes up.

Please remember to keep your details updated! For general information please visit the FIDIC website at www.fidic.org or the FIDIC YPF page <http://fidic.org/ypf> For more information or personal assistance on how to connect please contact us at ypf@fidic.org, Wafaa Balla, Communications Chairperson, FIDIC YPF Steering Committee.

STARTING YOUR OWN YPF IN YOUR COUNTRY

If you liked what you saw in the FIDIC YPF and YPFs across the world, why not start your own local group and join the international Forum? This is best achieved through the FIDIC Member Association (MA) in the country you are based. However, if no such association exists, or your MA can't support the creation of a national YPF, you can contact us to assist you.

FIDIC can also provide support and resources to assist you in creating an YPF group in your country. All you need is your enthusiasm for Engineering! From there you decide what it is that you want your YPF to represent. What is your focus? Is it just socializing with your peers? Or is it all of the above? As the FIDIC YPF, we will do all we can to support your new endeavor!

Contact us at ypf@fidic.org

CALL FOR ARTICLES AND NEWS FOR PUBLISHING IN YPF NEWSLETTER

If you would like to publish any articles or post any news and activities of your YP group in

the YPF Newsletter, please contact us by email at ypf@fidic.org