



## **FIDIC GAMA CONFERENCE 2018, BAMAKO MALI**

**Jeshika Ramchund (PrEng) (GAMA YPFSC Chairperson, Member GAMA EXCO and FIDIC YPFSC)**

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

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 conference social events.

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.

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Attendees at the  
25<sup>th</sup> General  
Assembly  
Meeting  
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YP Congress in progress



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**YP Congress Attendees with Members of GAMA Exco**

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**Opening Ceremony of the Conference at the Sheraton Hotel. Flags of the GAMA Member Associations on display**



**YP Presenters on behalf of FIDIC, GAMA and CESA YPF**