Greetings Young Professionals around the world!

I am happy to report that the FIDIC 2012 Annual Conference held this September in Seoul, South Korea was a great success! We had an impressive turnout of over 100 Young Professionals from all around the world and a full Young Professional program enjoyed by all. I was inspired to meet so many passionate and dedicated YPs who are making a difference in their parts of the world. It was very encouraging to hear from many YPs who are committed to developing their local Young Professional groups, and YPs who spoke at our YP Forum sharing their knowledge of how to increase sustainability in our industry. You will find all of these YP conference highlights in this Newsletter.

Following FIDIC’s 2012 Conference theme of sustainability, the steering committee was motivated to share sustainable development news around the world. In this newsletter, you will find an article by our SC member Wael Darkazanli about Sustainability measures in the Gulf region.

Looking back on the 2011/2012 season, the steering committee had a wonderful year thanks to the dynamic leadership of our past Chair Michele Kruger and the dedication of all Steering Committee members. Following this momentum, we are very excited to welcome in the 2012/2013 season! This year’s theme will be Communication & Outreach, and we will be focusing our efforts on diversifying our communication by exploring new platforms in social media. FIDIC now has a Facebook and Twitter account, so check it out for all of our latest YPFSC news!

With the launch of FIDIC’s new website platform, we will be working to improve our YPF webpage, and of course, strive to improve our outreach support to all of you to help grow our YP network, and establish new Young Professional groups around the world. We are happy to report the launch of the Young Professional Forum of Jordan, which was recently developed this year. See Jomanah’s article in this edition to hear all about their success!

As the new incoming Chair for YPFSC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our past Chair, Dr. Michele Kruger, for her hard work and dedication to the Steering Committee over the past five years. She has made great strides in our YPF development and I will do my absolute best to continue growing our YP presence in the consulting industry. I would also like to thank the FIDIC Executive Committee and secretariat for their continuous support.

On behalf of the YPFSC, we hope you find this newsletter informative and enjoyable. Please don’t hesitate to contact us with feedback, comments, or questions. We would love to hear from you!

Selena Wilson
FIDIC YPFSC Chair
Once again, this year’s young professional (YP) program at the 2012 FIDIC conference was a success. Seoul attracted more than a 100 Young Professionals from all around the globe. This unique opportunity offered YPs a chance to exchange on our industry challenges and grasp a united vision of tomorrow where quality, innovation and sustainability are the main focus.

Before the conference began, approximately 60 YPs decided to advance their career and enrolled in the Young Professional Management Training Program (YPMTP). This program offers YPs the skills on how to develop and maintain a sustainable and profitable consulting company. In parallel, the Young Professional Steering Committee was very active in modeling the conference and shared ideas and vision of consulting engineering to the executives and other FIDIC committees.

SOCIAL AND NETWORKING

On Sunday night, the 9th of September, the YP program kicked off at the WIZWIT bar for a meet and greet. This activity offered a great opportunity for all to get to know everyone and initiate conversation on this year’s conference theme. This newly formed group then moved to the welcome reception where we all had a chance to network with the other conference delegates.

On Monday, the 10th of September, YPs were invited by KENCA to participate at the Local Color Night where they could enjoy the local food and experience South Korean culture. On the evening of Tuesday, the 11th of September, YPs went on a Technical Tour and visited the “Korean Expressway Corporation Traffic Information Center”. This unique tour showed YPs how innovative and organized South Koreans are when facing new engineering challenges and surely inspired everyone. After official events, YPs reinforced their new relationships and friendships during social activities, such as singing at a Korean Karaoke bar, dining at a local restaurants and chatting in hotel lounges.

BUSINESS PROGRAM

Following this first day of social networking, YPs had the privilege to attend the Seoul conference from Monday the 10th of September to Wednesday the 12th of September. With more than 10 sessions in the program, YPs could choose their desired sessions based on their specific needs. The exchange of ideas and thoughts on international sustainability issues generated new creative initiatives for YPs to work on, back in their
For example, with the lack of internationally centralized information on sustainability, many suggested that YPs would benefit from the creation of a Wiki. This great vision was previously expressed by the FIDIC Executive Committee and actions are undertaken and will be pursued with the help of the YP Steering Committee.

Young Professional Forum

The YPs were not only spectators in this conference; they also contributed throughout the conference and offered high level sessions to all the delegates at the Young Professional Forum.

Young Professional Forum

On the first day, the Young Professional Forum presented four sessions on sustainable initiatives around the world.

First Mr. Chee Chan from Canada showed how consulting engineers can work with authority figure to develop decision-making tools benefiting the whole society. Secondly, Dr. Jane Scanlon from Australia presented what approaches can be created as incentives to embed sustainability in the delivery of infrastructure projects. Thirdly, Mr. Alejandro Varón Tischer managed a sustainable railway project in Spain that showed how sustainability can be applied in everyday projects.

Finally, Mr. Nader Shokoufi from Iran and Mr. Simon Davidson from Canada presented trends towards green projects based on the results of an international survey conducted by the FIDIC YPF steering committee over the summer. Our surveys aligned with the thoughts and observation of many and concluded that there was not enough sustainable consideration in projects, training in the industry, awareness from the policy makers and a lack of legal and financial incentives.

YPMTP – Future Leaders Workshop

On the next day, the YPMTP came to an end and they presented the outcomes of their seven month discussions during the Future Leaders Workshop. The theme was “Agents of Change”. This presentation showed, in a very well-structured presentation, what were the most important
issues facing our profession (Value of engineering, Transparency, Social Recognition, Integrity, etc.). Mr. Ji Woon Kang from South Korea presented the importance of promoting the value of engineering.

Mr. Jacob Philipsen from Denmark discussed the significance of innovation and the need to create alternatives. He gave some ideas on how to drive innovation by creating awareness, being creative, encouraging our colleagues and staff members, and challenging our limits.

This being exposed, Mr. Jeremy Carkner from Canada moved forward and invited every YP and senior manager to be “Champions of Sustainability”. As key conclusions, they expressed the need for consulting engineers to assert our role as leaders, reignite our passion for engineering, challenge our limits and inspire peers through networking. All present would confirm that this YP perspective was enlightening and had a keen vision of the future and of our industry.

For more information about this year’s YPMTP12 experience, See Mayosoun’s article in the this newsletter!

**Breakfast with FIDIC Executive Committee**

On Tuesday morning, YPs were invited to attend a breakfast with the FIDIC Executive Committee where they could better understand the vision and mission of FIDIC. This privileged experience was a great way to discuss FIDIC initiatives and to express the Young Professional vision to our industry leaders.

**CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

In conclusion, this year’s conference was an exclusive experience for all the participants. With the rich content and quality of the presentation, all YPs became ambassadors. When returning to their country, they will have the responsibility to expand their knowledge to their colleagues and promote good Industry practices.

On behalf of all YPs, I would like to thank KENCA for the great support that they provided us; FIDIC for putting together this high quality conference; senior delegates who gave us the chance to share in their experience and finally, to all YPs who participated in this year’s conference and ensured that the Young Professional’s voice is heard all around the world.

Also, I would like to thank all the YP firms for their continuous support in YP development and encourage all other FIDIC members to participate in the YPMTP or their local YP Group and to be present at next year conference in Barcelona.
I am honored to be reporting the exquisite experience which my colleagues and I shared during the “Young Professional Management Training Program 2012”. It started as virtual sessions through the Podio Forum in February 2011 until August 2012, and was concluded by a face to face workshop in Seoul for one week prior to the Grand FIDIC 2012 Seoul Conference in September 2012.

The program included a team of professional engineers from literally all over the world including Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and Australia; this by itself has been a priceless opportunity. The training program started by splitting the whole group into three sub groups where each group conducts virtual sessions through a very efficient internet- based forum called Podio. These virtual sessions were to be conducted every three to four weeks and in each session, we discussed a case study presented by the Facilitator. The cases that were presented through the program reflected real case studies which we as professional engineers meet in our professions such as Organization of a consulting firm, Human resources management, Business development, Financial management, Client relationship, Risk management, Sustainable development, Quality management and Business integrity management. The sessions were very helpful and enlightening especially because each one of the group members came from a different background and a different way of doing things under the framework of Consulting Engineering Industry.

The virtual sessions were great, but when we all met in Seoul to conduct the face to face intensive workshops, the experience elevated into a new different dimension! The effect of linking the face to the pictures and voices which we got used to during the eight months of virtual sessions was overwhelming. The three groups finally met and the harmony and chemistry that grew amongst the team members were key factors which resulted in very effective communication and negotiation sessions in Seoul. The facilitators were brilliant in choosing hot and interesting topics for the Consulting Engineering Industry which really boosted everyone’s energy to discuss and express his/ her opinion from their own experience.

In summary the workshops were interactive, informative and vibrant.

The most challenging exercise that we had to do as a group was to prepare Future Leaders Workshop to be presented by the group during the conference, the presentation topic and structure were the group’s decision. This was so challenging to have 30+ professionals agree on one topic and agree on one structure for a presentation to be presented to high profile professionals from all over the world?! At the beginning we all thought it was an impossible mission that could not be accomplished, but the outcome was fabulous, as each and everyone in the group took part in preparing as well as presenting the presentation.
The presentation was part of the three day conference which was in short a very elegant, grand, top notch and extra organized event, and the discussions held were very beneficial and constructive.

It is really hard to summarize this outstanding experience in a few words, but I hope I was able to convey the enormous benefit and exceptional knowledge that we had during the training program and the interactive workshops. I genuinely do encourage all of the young professionals within the Consulting Engineering Industry to take part in this program as one will go back to his or her home country with so much to share and spread amongst other professional engineers.

Finally, I would like to thank the FIDIC 2012 Host Country Seoul, South Korea for the most welcoming and generous hospitality, such a beautiful city, and amazingly friendly people!
Sustainability & Green Buildings in the GCC area

Sustainability & Green Buildings have become a world wide issue where many countries have spent a lot of time and effort to develop their future vision to match the requirements of sustainable buildings.

As many areas of the world are suffering financially, the GCC is still the most booming area in the construction field where billions is being spent in order to develop their infrastructure base.

Among Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) countries, Saudi Arabia and UAE are at the top in governmental spending regarding their infrastructural development such as Train Stations, Roads, and Airports and so on.

Among this huge development, a new vision has raised through developing their laws to match the international codes and requirements in satisfying the new global vision in sustainable buildings. The Saudi Gazette said through a summit held in Ridadh that “the design, construction and operation of new mega projects in Saudi Arabia must comply with the environmental assessments and green building methodologies in order to reduce ecological footprint and CO2 emission”.

Emissions of CO2 is a major concern regarding sustainable and green buildings where Saudi Arabia has the highest percentage of producing those emissions in MENA area with 1.3% of total global carbon emissions.

This new definition of the type and functionality of buildings requires an approval from all parties starting from the owner or developer, consultant, and finally the contractor who is responsible for achieving and executing those buildings. Therefore, it was required and important to spread this new culture among all parties in order to get them involved in the cycle through providing them with the concept and goal of sustainable and green buildings.

Many summits, conferences, workshops and training courses have been prepared, and a lot are still in the schedule. One of the organizers is Sesam Business Consultants who manages and organizes many events in the GCC region in order to achieve this goal.

In order to start the concept of sustainable and green buildings, Saudi Arabia built KAUST, which is one of the biggest universities in the area. KAUST was announced as one of the winners of the American Institute of Architects AIA ‘Top 10 Green Buildings awards for...
2010'. Also, KAUST earned a Platinum certification as LEED certification, and represented the world’s largest LEED Platinum project.

The ConstructionWeekOnline magazine mentioned that ‘Saudi Arabia will spend US $39billions (SR150billions) on construction of smart buildings over the next eight years, to promote long-term sustainability in the country'. A study in this regard was prepared, and found that smart buildings can save 30% on energy consumption, cut down 50% of water consumption and minimize up to 90% of waste produced by buildings.

Similar to Saudi Arabia, UAE has built its future plan in accordance with the sustainable buildings where a plan of Dhs81billion is being developed in order to foster sustainable development in the UAE. One of the major projects in UAE is Masdar City which is located in Abu Dhabi and has an area of 6km-square eco-city where most of energy has to be produced by solar system 'Electricity and cooling will be generated by solar panels', says associate project director, Dr Nawal Al Hosany.

In addition to the construction spending, Dubai is preparing to publish a “Green Building Code” which is directed by Dubai municipality which aims to ensure the city’s future growth along environmentally friendly lines.

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News from the EFCA YP group

2012 has been a dynamic year for YP activities in Europe under the umbrella of the European federation EFCA. The third edition of the EFCA Young Professional of the Year competition attracted a large number of candidates, including a significant proportion of ladies. It was won by Charlotte Spliethoff of the Netherlands for her role in collating and publishing a best practice guide for the management of levees. Charlotte presented her winning project at the annual EFCA conference.

We enjoyed record levels of attendance for this year’s YP Forum, which took place in the beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal, in May. The formal programme was accompanied by a site visit to an innovative wastewater treatment plant, social activities, and a “Business Mixer” session, best described as a business networking “speed-dating” event. During the forum, Dutch expert Art Bontekoning ran an interactive session on generational and cultural differences in organizations. Thanks once again to Alejandro Varón Tischer, who presented FIDIC’s YP programme and, together with Marcin Mikulewicz of EFCA’s YP steering committee, the plans for closer cooperation in future between the EFCA and FIDIC YP groups.

The objectives of this cooperation were further refined in September at the FIDIC YP steering committee meeting in Seoul, at which EFCA was represented by Peter Matthes from Germany. Specific areas of collaboration will include exchange of information, mutual participation in steering committees, social networking, support for the FIDIC YP survey, and co-operation to prepare for the 2013 meetings in Barcelona. The management and boards of both federations are informed and supportive of these developments.

The latest new activity for European YPs is an initiative to collect and share good practices for running dynamic national YP groups. The idea is to inspire and support all YP groups in offering young engineering consultants opportunities for personal and professional growth.

For more information on the EFCA YP group, and to read our newsletter, visit http://www.efcanet.org/YPs.aspx
Join us on LinkedIn – “Young Professionals within EFCA”
Contact us at yp@efca.be

EFCA has member associations in 25 countries and represents FIDIC in Europe
YPFJ Establishment

Participating in FIDIC YPMTP and the conference by Jordanian Young Professionals (YPJ) in the past years since 2008 was the driving force that led to the establishment of the Young Professional Forum in Jordan (YPFJ).

The greatest part of the FIDIC experience was the interaction with conference participants from all over the world for the purpose of serving and developing the profession, in addition to recognizing the YP community’s activities, values, and influences. This was the spark that raised and led to different questions regarding the capabilities and potentials within YPs, what can YPs do and achieve, what horizon do they have, what challenges, weaknesses and strengths do they have to deal with, in addition to how they can be part of the change and development of their profession.

Consequently, the answers for all of these open questions will be only available if we believe in ourselves, values and abilities; if we work together; if we have the right and healthy space to communicate and share experiences and knowledge, if we continue working on developing our capabilities in line with the international standards, if we have a dream, a vision, a strategy and a plan, and I would summarize all of that by establishing YPFJ.

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”
- Henry Ford

The Starting Point

The initiative of YPFJ was started in February 2012 by conducting several meetings between FIDIC YPMPT Participants from Jordan, and this was discussed and supported during the FIDIC Executive Committee (EC) meeting in Jordan/Amman in the same month.

After this, several meetings between YPJ took place to discuss the objectives, possible activities, and any related issue regarding establishment process and feasible ways to proceed.

YPFJ was established through Jordan Architects and Consulting Engineers Council (JACEC); A FIDIC National Member Association and will work and act as part of Young Professional Forum (YPF) within FIDIC.

Target Group

YPFJ will provide a space and platform for all YPs to communicate and grow effectively; in addition to expand and raise the awareness of FIDIC’s global Vision and Practices.

YPFJ is targeting all YPs in Jordan and are welcoming all YPs from surrounding countries.

YPFJ is open to any engineer, architect, planner, environmental and sustainability scientist, in addition to all FIDIC YPMTP participants to share and benefit the experiences & knowledge.

Objectives

The followings are the initial objectives that, of course, will be continuously developed with the Forum progress and growth:

* Enhance networking within YPs, through effective discussions and opportunities
* Exchange ideas, share experiences and knowledge
* Provide on-line discussions through YPFJ group profile on “LinkedIn”
* Improve personal development in line with engineering profession development
* Enhance and protect the image of our engineering profession
* Arrange and coordinate related events
* Work closely with YPF within FIDIC
* Raise the awareness and understanding of the profession’s requirements and practices and explore global developments and activities within FIDIC
* Encourage volunteering work and team spirit

**Communication Platform**

For the meantime the forum has an active group profile on “LinkedIn” to reach the largest numbers of YPs, to ease and enhance the networking, sharing knowledge and experiences, and enhance the culture of effective discussions among YPFJ members:

(http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Young-Professionals-Forum-in-Jordan-4574989)

We have a lot of ambitious plans and ideas that need to be translated to tangible activities in the near future. The first upcoming milestone we are looking for is the official announcement of the forum.

We are aware that our current steps are initially not many; however we are committed to work hard to ensure that they are fixed and continuous.
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 or if you need help to connect. Go to www.fidic.org

For more information or if you need help to connect, contact myself at: fidicypforum@gmail.com

Selena Wilson
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? This is best achieved through your country’s Member Association (MA) of FIDIC. However, if no such association exists, or your MA does not want to have their own YPF, you can contact us to find out how to start your own YPF. Through FIDIC we may have resources to make it easier or help partner it with you. 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 fidicypforum@gmail.com!