



# NEWSLETTER

## GAMA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL FORUM

### Chair's Message



**Doyin Obikanye**  
**Nigeria**

### Chair's Message

#### **FIDIC – GAMA Young Professionals**

It is indeed a great honor to have Young Professionals in Africa have a forum where they can meet, share and network. The Group of Member Association of the International federation of Consulting Engineers has indeed made this possible. Now the Young Professional can be heard, seen and spoken to as a forum, ideas and experiences may be shared within the peculiarity of our society in "Africa".

With great enthusiasm this forum which was birthed in April, 2013 at the GAMA conference in Khartoum has been positioned to prepare the Young for the future. The future of our world would depend on the Young Professional that is being enhanced, exposed and nourished. It is the intention of this forum to have the opportunity to continue to intermingle with leaders of the associations, community and indeed consulting engineers in order to propagate the basis for which the young would lead tomorrow.

It is also with much pleasure that we launch the first edition of our newsletter. This would assist in disseminating information to you all and seniors. It will be a medium to share our understanding of the challenges of our community, happenings in various infrastructural developments in various African Countries, events in the GAMA Community and a means also to continue to build Capacity within the GAMA YPF community.

This first edition have therefore, been filled with information concerning the GAMA Young professionals inauguration at Khartoum early in 2013, the GAMA Young Professionals Steering Committee's Sub Committee activities, a GAMA Young Professional view of the FIDIC's Barcelona conference and also a clips of the GAMA 2014, Conference at Mozambique. We hereby appeal to you to sit back and enjoy every article of the Newsletter.

Thank you!



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### 2013 FIDIC - GAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Consulting Engineers: Key Partners in Sustainable Infrastructure Development

7 - 10 April 2013



Group of African  
Member Association



International Federation  
of Consulting Engineers



Sudanese Engineering and  
Architectural Consultancy Association

### INAUGURATION OF FIDIC – GAMA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL FORUM

The GAMA Young Professionals forum was inaugurated in Khartoum on the occasion of the 21st annual conference of Consulting engineers in Africa. About 40 enthusiastic young professional were in Attendance. The event recorded the highest number of Young Professionals in any GAMA conference since its establishment. Young Professionals from Sudan, Tanzania, South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Nigeria were present at this conference. The excitement of the young was exhibited as young professionals began to understand and establish that they are the “future” and the next set of Industry leaders in African. Africa is strategic for Infrastructural development amongst all other continents and this was continuously brought to bear at the conference.

The development of the GAMA YPF was initiated by the FIDIC Young Professional steering committee at the FIDIC Executive Committee meeting held in Tanzania in January, 2013. The management of FIDIC is in support of African Young Professionals developing a forum where the voice of the Young African Professional will be heard through such organizations as GAMA and FIDIC.

The Inauguration Ceremony which took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2013 was anchored by Sudanese Engineering an Architectural consulting association ( SEACA) YPF and coordinated by her YPF Coordinator, Wisal M Awad.



*Wisal M Awad – Providing the welcome speech for the GAMA YPF Inauguration*



**Doyin Obankiye**  
**Nigeria**



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Adedoyin Obikanye who is a member of the FIDIC YPF Steering committee and a member of Association Consulting Engineers Nigeria (ACEN) gave a presentation on Why GAMA YPF? She explained the need for the Young African Professional to realize that they are the next set of Industry leaders in the built environment and that it is time for the African Youth to take her place in the industry. This she said is possible with the support of the old professionals who are willing to make investments in the younger generation. The progress of the Continent will be depend on this to a very large extent in the very near future and the future of infrastructural development is dependent on the empowerment and knowledge base of today's African young Professional.



*Adedoyin Obikanye delivering a speech on WHY GAMA YPF?*

The Inauguration was attended by some old professionals and the Managing Director of FIDIC who is also a no 1 promoter of Youth development in FIDIC and the originator of the FIDIC YPF also gave a speech to encourage the African Young Professional to take their place in their region and amongst their peers all over the world.



*Enrico Vink, Managing Director of FIDIC encouraging the FIDIC GAMA YPF development*



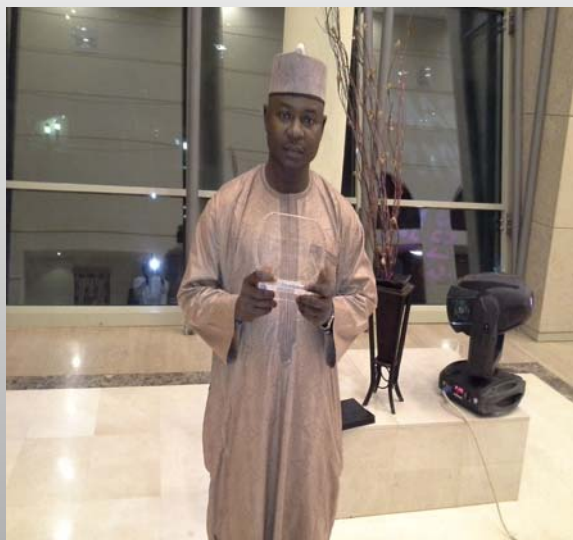


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The inauguration event was concluded by the YPs networking with themselves and this led to the opening ceremony for the FIDIC GAMA Conference, 2013

Other Young Professional events included the delivery of a paper by Ibrahim Buga of Kabir and Associates Limited and also a member of Association of Consulting Engineers Nigeria (ACEN). The Paper delivered by Ibrahim was the “development of the African Young Professional as a bridge to sustainable infrastructure”. Adedoyin Obikanye who is also of Comprehensive Project Management Services Limited in Nigeria also presented a paper; Current procurement policies and how it affects the Young Professional; the emphasis of the paper was on the need for organizations in Africa to invest in the young. The Young professional is affected by the procurement policy by being a staff of a GAMA organization and the inability of the organization and society to invest in the Young is detrimental to the future of the Industry. Therefore, procurement policies should consider capacity building for the African Young Professional.



*Ibrahim Buga and Adedoyin Obikanye both Young Professionals received awards after paper delivery*

Finally, the Young Professionals organized themselves and formed the GAMA Young Professional Steering Committee which is made up 8 young Professionals from different countries who have shown great interest in the development of the GAMA YPF.



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The Members of the Steering Committee includes Adedoyin Obikanye; Chair person from Nigeria, Francis Kofi Yankey; Vice chair from Ghana and other members are Ibrahim Buga from Nigeria, Jane Naki Tetteh also from Ghana, Nasiru Danlami from Nigeria, Jeshika Moonsamy Ramchand from South Africa, Wisal M Awad from Sudan and Olusegun Adetunji also from Nigeria.

The steering Committee has continued to meet monthly online and have developed their business plan. It is the aim of this committee to continue to be a strong unified voice for the young professional in the GAMA Community and meet face to face at FIDIC & GAMA conference while providing a forum for the young to grow, find expression both locally and internationally and network with their peers all over the world with the aim of being responsible to their communities as trusted advisers and industry leaders of the future.



*Some African Professionals in attendance at 2013 Conference in Sudan*

The well attended conference ended with several social activities and including a cruise on the Nile.



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Cross section of Young Professionals during the cruise on the Nile





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### **SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES OF THE GAMA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM STEERING COMMITTEE (YPFSC)**

The GAMA Young Professionals forum Steering Committee have continued to meet monthly using Skype as a medium of communication. They have formed various subcommittees which has allowed communication to the various member associations within the region. The Subcommittees include the Member Association Subcommittee, Social media subcommittee, Capacity building Subcommittee and Conference committee. Some of the activities of the subcommittee are highlighted in this report.

#### **Member Association Development**

In order to provide a unified voice for Young Professional's within the GAMA community, as well as encourage young people throughout the African continent to pursue a career in Engineering, the establishment and strengthening of Young Professional Forum (YPF) in respective Member Associations (MAs) must be encouraged for a sustainable GAMA YPF. It is in the light of this that the Member Associations (MAs) sub-committee was established by the GAMA YPF Steering Committee with the aim of drafting guide lines for the development of YPFs in the Member Associations. The Terms of covering ranges of relevant issues which includes taking inventory of all functional YPFs by Member Associations was established. A comprehensive list of MAs with and without functional YPFs was drafted and integrated to form a data base for easy reference and record.

Quality and numbers are clear yard sticks for measuring the strength of any forum or associations, in view of this, the stage was set to come up with useful strategies to improve on both the quality and the numbers of not only the GAMA YPF but also the YPFs of individual member associations. Paper questionnaire and online survey were used to reach hundreds of young professional throughout the African continent and possibly beyond, to collect relevant and important data that could be analysed for use in making useful strategies for a better YPF.

It is also our resolve to use successful operational templates from existing YPF of the member associations in improving other YPFs and in coming up with new ones with modifications to suit local conditions where necessary. Some of the existing and functional YPFs include; Sudan, Algeria, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. Other Member Associations are being encouraged by the GAMA YPF Steering Committee to form YPF with all the necessary technical aid at their disposal.



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### GAMA YPF Social Media Development

The GAMA Young Professional Forum Steering Committee (YPFSC) decided to take advantage of the social media which is the order of the day. A face book group has been put up to bring all Young Professionals (YPs) on the continent together. The idea is to have a platform to interact and share ideas and network. It is also to disseminate information on events organised by FIDIC, GAMA and the various Member Associations (MAs). The name of the group is GAMA Young Professional Forum.

Membership is open to all young professionals in the various MAs. A Member of this group can post issues on the platform for discussion and upload photographs of events. So far, the two Webinars organised by FIDIC YPFSC, pictures of the Barcelona 2013 Conference, Call for Nominations for the FIDIC YPFSC membership for the 2013-2014 and the upcoming FIDIC-GAMA 2014 Conference in Maputo, Mozambique, have been uploaded.

A LinkedIn account will soon be up for members to join.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

In an effort to realize the objectives of building capacity in Young Professional's (YP) on the African continent, GAMA YPF's capacity building initiatives will:

- A) Establish and maintain functioning YPF's in each Member Association (MA) within GAMA. Support will be available to MA's who are interested in establishing a YPF in their country and extending further to regional committee within the different parts of the respective country. Each functioning YPF should aim to bring together the YP's within that country, formulate their aims and objectives and be the voice of YP's.
- B) Establish and maintain a continental YP database to facilitate the GAMA YPF communication plan. The GAMA YPF aims to get representative feedback from YP's on poignant issues facing YP's locally and across Africa.
- C) Facilitate an aggressive communication plan to enable networking of YP's on a large scale. This will include monthly interactive meetings of the GAMA YPF Steering Committee, periodic publications, and information sharing via social media. YPF's from each MA are to provide feedback on activities and developments in their country for reporting on a continental level in publications and at meetings as well as to establish best-practice for new and developing YPF's.





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D) Introduce mentorship initiatives for professional development of YP's by highlighting professional and academic opportunities. The GAMA YPF aims to provide support to candidate YP's on aspects of professional registration with respective engineering councils. Information will be made available on courses that are suitable for YP's that contribute to professional development such as the FIDIC Young Management Training Programme and CESA School of Consulting Engineering's Business of Consulting Engineering.

For more information on capacity building, we encourage interested YP's from GAMA countries to contact the GAMA YPF Steering Committee for support.



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### THE FIDIC CENTENARY CONFERENCE, BARCELONA - 2013

The FIDIC Centenary Conference was held in Barcelona, Spain during the period 16 to 18 September. The conference theme has been “Quality of Life, our responsibility”. It has been a great event with top-notch keynote speakers, workshops and presentations. The main message has been to urge the 1200 delegates from 96 countries to speak up about the poor investment decisions being made, either for political expediency or based on poor economic parameters. The critical importance of good project selection was noted in order to address significant challenges confronting society in the area of urbanization, water, energy and transport in particular. The availability of Consulting Engineers to assist in this important task with their tools and experience was stressed.



The city of Barcelona itself was a most appropriate back-drop for the conference with its wealth of historical architecture, numerous museums, dining, shopping, football club, various entertainment options and great weather.



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YP attendance at the conference was remarkable, especially the attendance of YPs from African MAs including Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia, Uganda, Libya, Egypt, Mali, Mozam-



bique, Morocco, South Africa, Ghana, Botswana and Sudan. Many sessions were specifically geared towards young professionals (see the FIDIC website for links to presentations).

the FIDIC YP Management Training Program.

Of course the highlight of YP activities during the conference was the presentation given by the graduating YPs from

The icing on the cake was the technical tours organized for YPs and special dinner generously sponsored by many firms and organizations.



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### GAMA 2014 CONFERENCE, MOZAMBIQUE

#### About GAMA

The Group of African Member Association (GAMA) is the African Chapter of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC).

Each year GAMA holds a conference in a different member country in Africa for professionals working in the built and natural environment. The conference is attended by delegates from within and outside Africa and gives a platform for Consulting Engineers, Government Officials, International financial institutions, Private Investors, Construction Equipment and Material Suppliers and other stakeholders in the Engineering Consultancy Industry, from the public and private sectors, to share and exchange ideologies and methodologies for the provision of consulting engineering services. In fact, it is the biggest annual networking for Consulting Engineers in Africa.

The 2014 GAMA Conference will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The Conference theme is “**Local Involvement in Major Projects for Sustainability.**” It is organized jointly by FIDIC-GAMA and the Mozambican Association of Consulting Enterprises (AEMC).

#### GAMA Young Professionals' Forum

The GAMA Young Professionals' Forum (YPF) which was inaugurated in 2013 at the GAMA conference in Sudan and the GAMA YPF will be looking forward to a robust program this year. All Member Association within the region are expected to send in their young professionals for the Mozambique conference. This will facilitate the views and perspective of the young to be heard. The young professional will learn about the various issues and challenges that infrastructural developments in their region are faced with collectively and individually. Therefore, the young professionals will begin to understand and find and proffer solution for the challenges of tomorrow while being parts of the solution of today's challenges.

The young professionals will have their presentation and program during the conference. The GAMA Young Professional's Forum Steering Committee (YPFSC) will be available to receive and welcome all young professionals within the region.

The GAMA YPFSC hereby uses this medium to invite all African Young Professionals in within and outside Africa to the 2014 Mozambique conference. More information will be communicated to the Young Professionals through our social media i.e. GAMA YPF facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1402744603273583/>





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### The Host Country

Mozambique, officially the Republic of Mozambique, is a country in Southeast Africa bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east, Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Zambia to the north-west, Zimbabwe to the west and Swaziland and South Africa to the southwest. The capital and largest city is Maputo.

Mozambique is endowed with rich and extensive natural resources. The country's economy is based largely on agriculture, but with industry, mainly food and beverages, chemical manufacturing, aluminium and petroleum production and tourism sector is growing.

The official language of Mozambique is Portuguese, which is spoken mostly as a second language by about half of the population. Common native languages include Swahili, Makhuwa, and Sena. The country's population of around 24 million is composed overwhelmingly of Bantu people. The largest religion in Mozambique is Christianity, with significant minorities following Islam and African traditional religions.

Mozambique has a tropical climate with two seasons, a wet season from October to March and a dry season from April to September. Average temperature ranges in Maputo are from 13 to 24 °C (55.4 to 75.2 °F) in July to 22 to 31 °C (71.6 to 87.8 °F) in February.

### Conference Programme

Wednesday, 15 January, 2014: Deadline for receipt of abstracts

Friday, 31st January, 2014: Notification to authors of acceptance of their abstracts and to develop and finalize their presentations

Friday, 14 February, 2014: Registration and payment deadline

Friday, 7 March, 2014: Deadline for receipt of presentations

Conference Registration, Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2004. 8:00-18:00.

For further information please visit [www.gama2014.com](http://www.gama2014.com).



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**Chairperson, GAMA  
YPFSC**



**Doyin Obikanye  
Nigeria**

## HOW TO BECOME PART OF GAMA YPF AND STARING YOUR OWN YPF IN YOUR COUNTRY

Membership is open to any Engineer, Planner or allied Professional under 40 years of age and firm is a member of GAMA.

The vision of this group is to provide a unified voice for young professionals throughout the GAMA community through a variety of forums, events and communication mechanisms.

Find out if there is a YPF running in your country and become part of this dynamic young professional group by providing your contact details. This can be done through your country Member Association (MA) of GAMA.

You will receive updates, newsletters and information on upcoming events such as GAMA conferences as well as FIDIC activities, from the GAMA YPF Steering Committee.

Otherwise visits the GAMA YPF face book page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1402744603273583/>, on steps to follow to start your own YPF in your country.

GAMA YPF Steering Committee is ever ready to offer the necessary support.