

PRESS RELEASE



FIDIC Centenary Conference 2013 Barcelona



Geneva, 3 September 2013

Solutions offered for Unsustainable Development

The Consulting Engineering industry¹ will launch a new set of practical guides for use by all those involved in developing infrastructure. The launch will take place in Barcelona at the Centenary Conference of FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers. Under the banner “Quality of Life – Our Responsibility”, the conference will focus in particular on urban environments where 75% of the challenges are manifested.

- A new approach to Sustainable Infrastructure is vital to our Quality of Life!!
- World economies have been seriously weakened by unsustainable development and excessive consumption.
- Humanity faces serious environmental challenges, including degraded land and soil, depleted natural resources, polluted air and water, and now, severe climate risks.

Society is looking to this industry to formulate a holistic approach on the role of cities in addressing sustainability challenges. Consulting Engineers and Architects, as key advisors in the delivery of sustainable infrastructure, have developed more sophisticated technologies to tackle innovative solutions to energy, water and transport usage in a more coordinated way.

Building on previous experience, including partnerships with some international institutions (World Bank, UNEP, ISO, EU) a new Sustainability Pack, comprising three complementary publications, is to be published by FIDIC and EFCA the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations. This pack comprises “Rethink Cities”- a white paper on societal challenges; “PSL[®]2013” - a tool to support owners and their partners with collaborative work on sustainability; and “PSM II” - a guideline and manual for consulting engineers implementing major sustainability issues in projects. An outline follows in Annex 1.

Annex 1 - FIDIC/EFCA Sustainability Pack

Annex 2 - EFCA/FIDIC “Rethink cities” white paper

For further information on the FIDIC/EFCA Sustainability Pack, please contact:

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¹ According to the EFCA/FIDIC 2013 survey “the aggregated supply and demand for engineering, architecture and research & development services in the EU27 has been estimated at € 351 billion. In turn these services facilitated a € 2,924 billion global investment in the EU in 2012”. Globally the annual investment in core infrastructure exceeds \$6 billion. These figures illustrate the critical role of these industries for implementing sustainability policies in construction.



About FIDIC

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers was founded in Switzerland in 1913. It now represents 95 national associations and over 60,000 consulting engineering firms around the world, employing some 1.5 million professionals.

The FIDIC centenary conference in Barcelona is being organised in collaboration with the Association of Consulting Engineers Spain (Tecniberia).

About EFCA

The European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations was founded in 1992, and represents 24 national associations from EU member states and EFTA countries.

Source:

FIDIC

www.fidic2013.org

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Annex 1 – FIDIC/EFCA Sustainability Pack:

- “RETHINK CITIES” - EFCA/FIDIC 2013 WHITE PAPER (See the annexed four pages synthesis) presents the back ground resulting from major trends of societal development, in which projects or programs will have to be developed over the coming years. It clarifies that the biggest demands on sustainability are concentrated in cities. It demonstrates with many examples from engineering consulting firms, the benefits that can be gained when considering interrelationships between urban functions. It advocates a systemic approach to cities.
- PSL®2013, THE PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY LOGBOOK, proposes a common language on sustainability, to be shared by all stakeholders. It can be used for selecting objectives and priority issues for specific projects/programmes and provides monitoring tables for collaborative works, and for their follow up all along the life cycle of the project. PSL, the Project Sustainability Logbook, in line with the PSM methodology, provides tools for the selection of objectives and issues for specific projects and for monitoring these all along their life cycle.
- Project Sustainability Management guidelines and manual - PSM II is first and foremost, a list of core issues that engineers should consider when carrying out projects in a sustainable way, backed up by a number of processes for broad inclusion of stakeholder input. Each item on the list brings with it a set of perspectives, which are the sustainability considerations that affect the way these issues should be considered on the project. A good part of this manual consists of descriptions of these perspectives and an indication of possible project responses as well as logical links between the different issues.

Note

- a) In 2004, FIDIC published the Project Sustainability Management Guideline (PSM), which provides the industry with an approach in developing project specific indicators;
- b) In March 2012, a policy statement was issued on climate change;
- c) In September 2012, a report on sustainable infrastructure was published, with a focus on decision making tools.