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## Aligning the Consulting Engineer's Role to the vision of Africa Infrastructure Development

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**Current and future impact and role of the LOCAL consulting engineers in infrastructure development in Africa.**



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# **Experience of the Consulting Engineers of Mali (OICM) in the capacity building of its members to better contribute to the development of the Infrastructures**

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# The Consulting engineers of Mali (OICM)

The Order of the Consulting engineers of (OICM) was established by a law n° 97-028 voted by the National Assembly of Mali on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1997. The macroeconomic context of Mali at that time was characterized by a revival of the national economy with a growth rate of the GDP of about 5%. The sector of the Construction industries constituted an important lever in economic recovery. It was thus necessary for this Law to allow the consulting engineers, link important of the private sector in the field, to fully play their partition in local and national development.



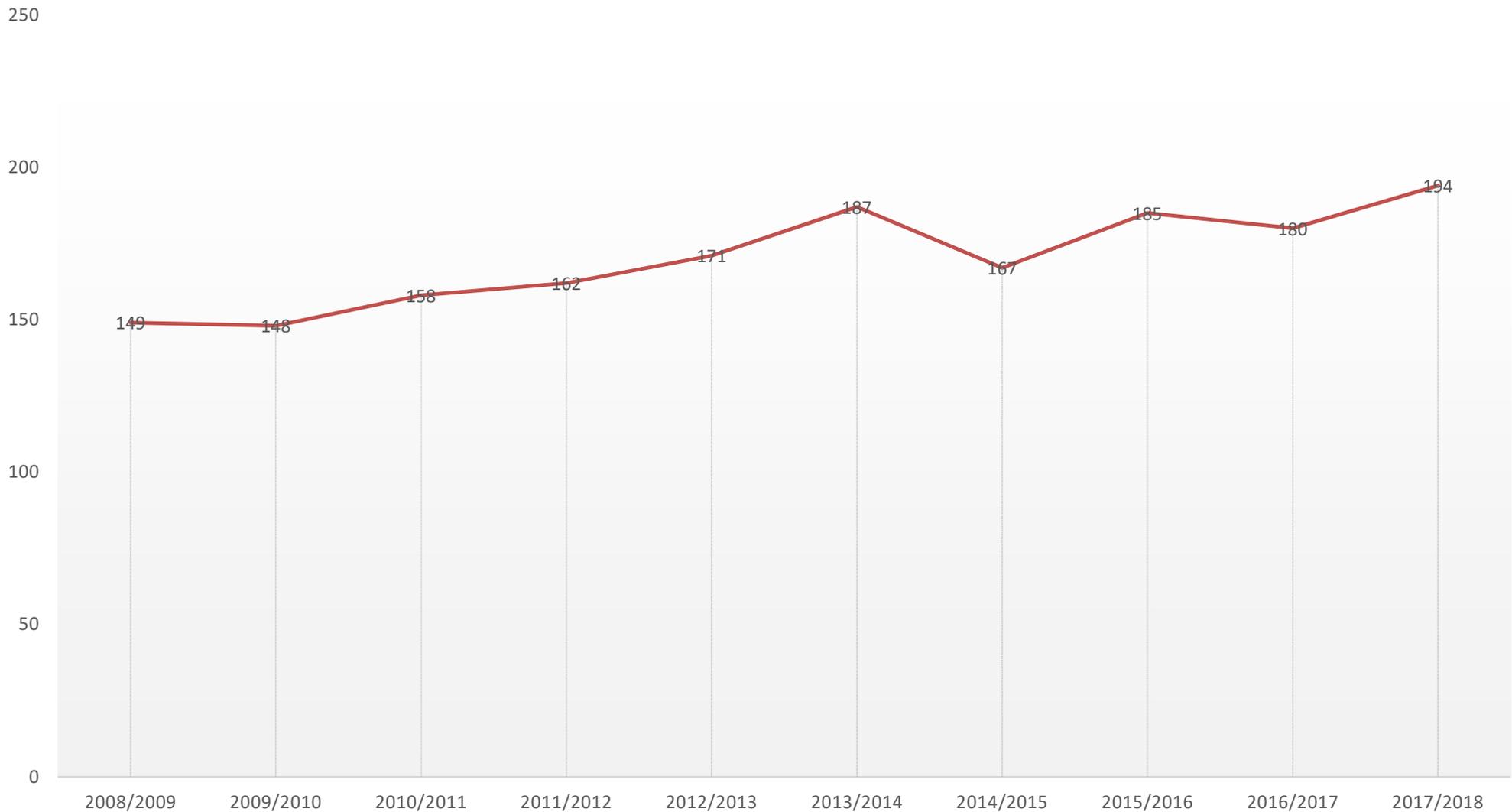
# The Consulting engineers of Mali (OICM)

Beyond the defense of the legitimate interests of the profession, the OICM has to contribute to the respect of the security of the users, of the environment and to the optimization of the costs of infrastructures for the common good.

At the moment of its creation, the OICM currently counted 58 companies against 194 in activity, which of course in the Malian context constitutes a plethora. The members of the OICM employ more than 1000 People (Engineers and staffs of support).

# Evolution of the number of companies of Consulting engineers in Mali during the 10 last years

Number of companies members of OICM





# The Consulting engineers of Mali (OICM)

Despite the positive development, the market share being allocated to the national consulting engineers does not exceed 40%.



# Activities out of national territory

In terms of activities out of national territory, companies of consulting engineers of Mali are present and in general are well appreciated in several African countries: Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Congo Democratic, Burundi, Togo, Rwanda, Djibouti, Sao Tome, Union of the Comoros, Madagascar, etc...



# Training and Capacity Building

The OICM as an institution of public utility has to promote quality in order to tend towards the perfection of the infrastructures to create. Thus the training session of the members is one of the main activities of the Institution. Sessions of capacity building are often devoted to the managerial aspects of the profession. Thus members of the OICM took part in trainings on FIDIC Contracts organized in Mali and in other African countries. Some companies of Malian Consulting Engineers are certified ISO.9001.



# Training and Capacity Building

The OICM drew up on the basic training level of the engineers a protocol of collaboration with the National school of Engineers Abderrahmane Baba Touré (ENI-ABT) and takes part in the Council of Improvement of this establishment. The Protocol of collaboration in addition makes it possible to the ENI-ABT to send its students in internship in companies of Consulting Engineer members of the OICM.



# Promoting engineering

Within the framework of its mission which is to promote engineering, the OICM focuses on the visibility and the promotion of the consulting industry in Mali and in the bordering countries. Thus, in 2001 in Bamako, were organized the first days of engineering with the participation of the representatives of seven countries of west and central Africa (Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Togo, Benin, Niger and Chad).



# Promoting engineering

Following that the Ministries in charge of equipment, transport, town planning and construction, with a strong implication of the OICM, organized the States General of the Building industries and Public works of Mali which was a framework of dialogue of all the official and private actors field (Engineers, Architects, Geometricians, Town planners, Contractors, Property developers, Notaries, Insurers, Financial ...)



# Promoting engineering

For a better local contribution to the development of the infrastructures, the OICM always has worked with the creation of an adequate professional environment and of dialogue with the other actors of the sector. Thus, with the Order of the Architects of Mali, the Order of the Town planners of Mali and the Order of the Geometricians of Mali, the OICM set up the Federation of the Orders of Building Industries in order to avoid all kind of conflict situations between professionals and in order to discuss together on the main questions of national importance in the field. In addition OICM is active member of the National federation of the Professional Orders of Mali.



# Harmonization of laws a condition for Regional Integration and development of infrastructures

The Consulting Industry is fundamentally transnational. That's why the OICM takes an active part in the process of harmonization of the texts governing the profession in space of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) gathering eight countries.



# Harmonization of laws a condition for Regional Integration and development of infrastructures

The need for harmonization on this level rises from a certain number of observations:

- Under the UEMOA Treaty, the States began to create a Common Market based on freedom of movement of the goods, the services, the capital and the right of establishment of the persons.
- The Conference of the Heads of state and government approved in March 2005 in Niamey in Niger, the gradual approach of the implementation suggested by the Commission



# Harmonization of laws a condition for Regional Integration and development of infrastructures

- The recognition of diplomas and other titles within the Union must be based on academic considerations and experience
- The access to the title of engineer and consulting engineer is subordinated to the achievement in addition to obtaining the diploma or another title, of an internship during a given time. Currently there is no convergence between the Member States of the Union from this point of view



# Harmonization of laws a condition for Regional Integration and development of infrastructures

- The number of Engineers and Consulting engineers from one Member States to another are unequal.
- Associations and Orders of Consulting engineers of the Member States are relatively young
- There is often a weakness or even an absence of support from of the public authorities
- The need for capacity building of the consulting engineers within a framework of globalization is obvious
- The support of the local financial institutions is very weak



# Harmonization of laws a condition for Regional Integration and development of infrastructures

To go towards harmonization implies the elimination of the legal obstacles to the establishment of a real common market. That is a priority and the removal of the obstacles is essential, namely to eliminate the obstacles related to the right of establishment in the Member States and the freedom of movement between Member States, to guarantee the legal security necessary to the effective exercise of these rights.



# Harmonization of laws a condition for Regional Integration and development of infrastructures

A Directive was emitted by this institution for this harmonization. Accordingly, the business of consulting engineers was identified by the Commission of the UEMOA to be part of the fields on which it is possible to act to consolidate and widen the base of African integration. In the Directive, it should be noted that:



# Harmonization of laws a condition for Regional Integration and development of infrastructures

- Is considered as Engineer anyone from the Member States having obtained a diploma of Engineer or equivalent recognized in one of the States members.
- Is considered as Consulting Engineer, any Engineer as definite above, having at least five years of experience and registered as member of an Order of Engineers or Consulting engineers of a Member State.



# Harmonization of laws a condition for Regional Integration and development of infrastructures

- Any Engineer or Consulting engineer registered as member of Order of a Member State can be established or exert in the other Member States. He just have to present a certificate of membership of the Order of the country of origin.

This harmonization is recommended to be applied beyond the UEMOA, by the ECOWAS in all West African countries, and even by the African Union especially in the context of creation of the African Common Market.



# To be active member of international specialized professional associations – a way to reinforce local associations

The OICM is member of FIDIC since 2005 and GAMA since 2010

For the OICM, the reinforcement of the capacities of the Orders and local associations of consulting engineers as their effective contributions to the development of the infrastructures cannot be done without the creation and the permanent support of specialized professional associations.



# To be active member of international specialized professional associations – a way to reinforce local associations

So the OICM has contributed to the installation and supports firmly organizations such as:

- The National Committee on Dams and Lakes member of the International Commission on Large Dams
- The Malian Association for Irrigation and Drainage, member of the Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage member of the International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage
- The National Committee of the World Road Association
- The National Committee of the Association of African Administrators and Partners of Roads



# Difficulties for a more consequent contribution to the development of infrastructures

- A great disparity of the capacities of the companies of consulting engineer of Mali as well in terms of human, material capacities as financial
- A high number of companies of consulting engineers in Mali, which is contrary with creation of large competing companies to the international level
- A weak implication of the Consulting engineers of Mali in the formulation of the programs of schools of engineering



# Priority actions to carry out for a better implication of Consulting Engineers at the local level in the development of the infrastructures

- To reinforce the capacities of human resources of the members of associations
- To improve the designs of the infrastructures by taking into account the environmental protection and the questions of sustainable development
- To ensure an access to technology, what will make the difference in practice
- To support the partnership at the local and regional levels



# Priority actions to carry out for a better implication of Consulting Engineers at the local level in the development of the infrastructures

- To promote the systems of quality management
- To improve communication between the public authorities and the private promoters for a better understanding of the role of Consulting Engineers in the development process
- To promote FIDIC good practices for the satisfaction of the customers
- To promote at least the use of FIDIC contracts



# Priority actions to carry out for a better implication of Consulting Engineers at the local level in the development of the infrastructures

- To have a support of FIDIC for the training of the members
- To better cooperate with the investment banks and to gain mutual confidence to ensure the financing.
- To collaborate with the schools of engineering and institutions of scientific research to make closer teaching, training, research and practice



**Thank you for attending.**



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