

The role of professional organisations – partnerships

CESA President, Lynne Pretorius

Good Morning all to this 24th FIDIC-GAMA 2017 Conference

Madam Mayor
Representatives of FIDIC
GAMA chairperson
Sponsors
CESA board members and LOC chair

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. All protocol observed.

A warm CESA welcome to all of you to South Africa, Cape Town to be precise, at the foot of Africa. On behalf of all consulting engineers in South Africa, I welcome you to this occasion.

CESA is honoured to host such representation from Africa. We have in our midst presentation from 17 countries across Africa, represented by over 250 delegates. Furthermore, a warm welcome to all South Africans present, representing consulting engineering firms, the public sector and other professional organisations.

We meet at a time when the environment in which we are conducting our business is extremely challenging. South Africa has its own economic challenges currently, along with various social and political dynamics. These are all mirrored to some extent in the rest of Africa, as well as in the rest of the world, developed and developing countries alike. With global changes afoot, it is clear that the world as we know it, the consulting engineering environment as we know it, is changing. Within this dynamic environment, CESA remains resilient and relevant in enabling Consulting Engineering Excellence in SA, the SADC bloc and further across our borders.

The focus of this country is African Partnerships for sustainable growth. Mr Thela of the local organising committee stated that challenges cannot be solved by single entities. The GAMA Chairperson stated that consulting engineers must form inter and Intra-regional partnerships to spread effective use of human capital across our borders. In this context the role of professional organisations must not be underestimated. Professional organisations is usually a non-profit organisation engaged in that profession seeking to further that particular profession, the interest of individuals involved in that profession as well as the public interest.

CESA'S vision is to be your partner in consulting engineering excellence. In the past, and going forward, CESA has, and continues to establish secure and strategic alliances with voluntary associations representing the built environment professions and business organisations. With like-minded organisations we strive to bring out quality infrastructure development in our respective countries. These organisations are not limited to consulting engineers. We work in the built environment and many projects are multi disciplinary in nature.

Infrastructure development in Africa and South Africa specifically, is critical in bringing about the social development and economic growth that is so necessary in Africa. The 24th annual FIDIC-GAMA Conference provides us all, as role players the opportunity to interrogate the challenges and opportunities in our sector and our region and to explore strategic partnerships going forward. Importantly explore partnerships with those role players with whom we share similar values and who will assist in furthering our strategic objectives.

We share a similar vision. CESA is committed to quality infrastructure delivery in SA and Africa and is seeking partnerships to further this goal. Partnerships between the International Federation of Consulting Engineers or FIDIC and its Member Associations and the regional group, GAMA will ensure quality and uniformity in the practice of consulting engineering and will create a conducive business environment for working within Africa.

It is within this spirit that the 24th FIDIC GAMA conference is being hosted. This is an opportunity for all professionals involved in the built environment to learn from another, build professional networks, further common goals and identify business opportunities.

I wish you constructive engagements and deliberations, as we interrogate the issues and challenges facing our consulting engineering sector. Let us find workable plans as we think and development innovative solutions to improve the quality of the lives of the people in our respective countries.

I thank you.