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1. Words by President, FIDIC AFRICA, Eng. Kabelo Motswagole



FIDIC AFRICA President's Message

"For the first time since the establishment of GAMA we could not hold the signature Annual Infrastructure Conference. The FIDIC GAMA Annual Conference for 2020 was billed to take place in April in Gaborone Botswana. The theme of the conference was "The role of Consulting Engineer in a changing world: The African perspective". This was a prophetic theme in that the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic changed and continues to change the world as we know it and it has made the role of the Consulting Engineer more imperative than ever before. The cancellation of the annual conference resulted in the organising Member Association (ACEB), delegates, sponsors and all associated stakeholders suffered major financial and opportunity losses. This also meant that we had to change the way we traditionally do things. As such, the General Assembly Meeting (GAM) which was held on the 22nd April 2020 had to be via a virtual platform. The GAM endorsed the change of name from GAMA to FIDIC AFRICA and the associated changes to the constitution to align it with FIDIC. The new Executive Committee (EXCO) was also sworn into office during the GAM.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for volunteering their valuable time for the advancement of the profession and the FIDIC AFRICA vision. My gratitude also goes to the Member Associations (MA's) for sponsoring these great professionals.

I have no doubt that this EXCO will help FIDIC AFRICA grow and become a more effective and efficient organisation. I am happy to report that EXCO comprises of highly dedicated professionals backed by a professional Secretariat as evidenced by what we have achieved in such a short time under very challenging circumstances. We have developed and approved a 4-year Strategic and Business Plan with achievable objectives. We are finalising the Terms of Reference for the Committees, as the key drivers of the strategy. I encourage and implore every professional within FIDIC AFRICA to actively participate in at least one of the Committees that aligns with your professional and business interests. The spirit of innovative volunteerism is what FIDIC AFRICA needs to thrive.

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One of the key objectives of the Strategic and Business Plan is to grow the membership of FIDIC AFRICA. I am excited to announce the Republic of Angola, and welcome on-Board Angola. There are also great prospects for Rwanda, and Burundi to FIDIC AFRICA soon. The language barrier remains one of the main challenges in penetrating the Francophone countries and EXCO is continuously looking at ways of mitigating this challenge through our existing Francophone MA's such as Mali. I encourage other MA's and Member Firms with established contacts in Francophone Africa to step-up and assist us in creating a more inclusive FIDIC AFRICA.

EXCO is alive to the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the business of Consulting Engineering and to the sustainability of the MA offices and am pleased to announce that EXCO has approved a 10% reduction on the 2020 membership subscriptions. We are also mindful of the loss in revenue due to the reduced training activities and encourage our MA's to adopt innovative continuity plans and explore creative and alternative and creative training formats. Whilst the pandemic has impacted travel and will lead to a reduction in operational costs in terms of travel and conferencing, MA's are urged to optimise resources to weather the uncertainty that lies ahead.

I am delighted with the positive changes which we are experiencing in FIDIC since the arrival of the CEO, Eng. Dr Nelson Ogunshakin, particularly the recognition that the regional bodies of FIDIC are all different and that their uniqueness brings something positive to the organisation. The review of FIDIC's regional strategy is indeed a welcome development. It is however up to FIDIC AFRICA to step up to the podium and make meaningful contributions in FIDIC Committees as a steppingstone to a seat at the FIDIC Board.

To this end I would like to encourage all MA's to ensure that they vote in the upcoming FIDIC Board elections. EXCO has endorsed our immediate-past President Eng. James Mwangi for a position in the FIDIC Board. As you are aware the Board leads FIDIC and plays a pivotal role in the strategic direction of the organisation. It is therefore through representation in the Board that FIDIC AFRICA can bring the African perspective into the development of policies and programmes in FIDIC.

I would also want to recognise the role played by the Future Leaders in the development of various programmes of FIDIC AFRICA. This has become even more pronounced during the Covid-19 crisis by bringing to bare innovative solutions especially on the communication and dissemination of information. I am particularly pleased that they have managed to organise a highly successful Webinar series on 'Building a Successful FIDIC Future Leaders Group' with our very own Engineer Jeshika Ramchand as the moderator. Congratulations to the FIDIC Future Leaders team.

I am also incredibly pleased with the response and support from FIDIC during the Covid-19 pandemic. The FIDIC Covid-19 guideline documents were issued timeously and provided particularly good practical guidance at a time when confusion and despair were threatening to take root. The Webinar Series and the FIDIC CEO's updates certainly eased the impact of the crisis with decisive and practical information for Consulting Engineers and the greater built environment community. Gratitude is due to the FIDIC Board and the Secretariat.

Finally, I trust that you will find this edition of the FIDIC AFRICA bulletin informative and highlights the dire need for innovation during these trying times. It is my belief that Covid-19 crisis devastating as it is, offers an excellent opportunity for us, as Consulting Engineers, to redefine ourselves and provide state-of-the-art innovative solutions to our Clients and to better serve humanity. The need for collaboration has never been this critical. Let us all ensure that this crisis and its challenges brings out the best in us. I pledge that as your EXCO we shall work hard to ensure that "The voice of the Consulting Engineer in Africa" is heard.

Let us all follow the prescribed Covid-19 protocols and be safe. It shall surely pass.

Thank You.

President, FIDIC AFRICA, Eng. Kabelo Motswagole"

2. Words by Immediate Past President, FIDIC AFRICA, Eng. James N. Mwangi



"I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to members of the Executive Committee (Exco) during my tenure as Chairman of FIDIC AFRICA. It was gratifying to note the high attendance to the many meetings including the monthly meetings during which many impactful discussions we help. The notable achievements in the last two years include:

- The development and unveiling of the Strategic Plan. This gave FIDIC AFRICA a road map for the next 5 years. The development and unveiling of the Strategic Plan. This gave FIDIC AFRICA a road map for the next 5 years
- The successful FIDIC AFRICA Conference in Bamako, Mali in 2018, followed by the FIDIC AFRICA Conference in Kampala, Uganda in 2019. We thank the local MA's for the wonderful effort made to make these conference a success.
- The hosting of the first virtual General Assembly Meeting this year, which displayed the organization's agility to respond to the limitations imposed by various Countries to curb the spread of the Covid-19 Pandemic,
- Amendment of the Constitution at the FIDIC AFRICA GAM, this year,
- The hosting of the FIDIC Board in 2019 in South Africa. We thank the FIDIC board for engaging GAMA in getting valuable inputs toward FIDIC Regionalization policy,

Subscribe	Past Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vibrant activities and growth of the FIDIC- AFRICA Future Leaders and the active engagement with the FIDIC Board and secretariat. 	Translate ▼	RSS 
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FIDIC AFRICA has continued to grow and more importantly continues to make valuable contributions to the consulting engineering profession and infrastructure sector in Africa. FIDIC AFRICA is on a particularly good growth trajectory and especially now when the FIDIC regionalisation initiative is a core agenda item of the FIDIC Board.

I look forward to actively supporting FIDIC AFRICA as an Exco member and as the Chairman of the FIDIC Integrity Management Committee. The African continent has a lot to gain in the eradication/minimization of unethical practices to enable the realization of more positive impact of infrastructure projects done on the continent.

Once again, I want to thank the Exco members, the Member Associations (MAs) and the secretariat (CESA) for the wonderful support and encouragement.

I want to wish the current President Eng. Kabelo Motswagole all the success and am confident that FIDIC AFRICA is in very Safe and capable hands. I thank Eng. Kabelo for his long-dedicated service to FIDIC AFRICA and the consulting engineering profession.

God Bless FIDIC AFRICA.

Eng. James N. Mwangi.
Chair FIDIC Integrity Management Committee.”

3. News from EXCO

A comprehensive list of information pertaining to the profiles of the 2020 EXCO is available for your information, [click here](#), for more information. EXCO have finalised the Strategic Plan for the next few years and Committees will be set up to drive the actions that would be required to achieve these objectives. MA's are encouraged to avail themselves to these Committees when the invitations for such participation are extended. It is envisaged that this should happen within in the next two months.

1. Kabelo J. Motswagole (President) - Botswana
2. Abe Thela (Deputy President) - South Africa
3. James N. Mwangi (Immediate Past President) - Kenya
4. George C. Okoroma (Honorary Treasurer) - Nigeria
5. Rizwan Qadri (Honorary Secretary) - Tanzania
6. Alex Turihohabwe - Uganda
7. Bruno Vedor - Mozambique
8. Marie T. Diallo - Mali
9. Jeshika Ramchund - South Africa
10. Harold M. Chibwe (FIDIC AFRICA Future Leaders Committee) - Zambia
11. Patrick Kampengele - Zambia
12. Chris Campbell (FIDIC AFRICA Secretariat) - South Africa

4. Clarion call to action by ALL FIDIC AFRICA MA's

Many MA's may be aware that currently there is no representative of FIDIC AFRICA serving on the Board of FIDIC. This year, our immediate Past President Eng. James Mwangi has been accepted as a candidate for election to the FIDIC Board. The Secretariat would like to therefore make a special appeal to MA's to ensure that they are in good standing with FIDIC by settling outstanding member subscription payments to FIDIC, so that they are eligible to vote. On another equally important note, we would also like to remind you to take exceptional care to cast your votes before the closing date, which is by 4 September 2020, 10 days before the FIDIC General Assembly Meeting scheduled for 15 September 2020.

It was most disheartening to learn that only two FIDIC AFRICA MA's from the sixteen MA's currently listed, cast their votes at the FIDIC GAM in Mexico last year. We need to make a special effort maximise the support for our candidate this year, so that we can have a representative from our Region on the FIDIC Board once again.

5. News from MA's

5.1 ACEN's New President

Eng. George C. Okoroma, FNSE, JP is the 18th President of the Association for Consulting Engineering in Nigeria (ACEN). He was invited at a ceremony on 20th February 2020 at the Royal Banquet Hall of Hotel Presidential in the Garden City of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

The ceremony was graced by top Government Dignitaries, Past Presidents of ACEN and esteemed Members of the Association, Presidents and Executive Council Members of Engineering Associations in Nigeria, Royal Fathers, Multinational Oil Company Executives, Religious Leaders, Distinguished Engineers, Family Members, Friends and well-wishing members of the general public.

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Eng. George C. Okoroma, FNSE, JP (centre) being decorated by the ACEN Immediate Past President (IPP), Eng. Charles 'Yele Akindayomi, FNSE (R)

Eng. George C. Okoroma - Brief Profile:



Eng. George Chukwulewa Okoroma graduated as a Civil Engineer in 1981 from the Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France. He also holds a Master of Science Degree in Project Management. He sits at the helm of affairs at Gambeta Groupe Limited, a group of companies with major professional interest in Engineering & Technical Consulting Services, Oil and Gas (EPIC) Projects, Transport/Logistics, Information Technology, Hospitality, Contract Staff Management, Manpower Development, and Real Estate. He has distinguished himself as a professional, a philanthropist and a leader who believes that integrity, honesty, and

professionalism remains the core value for professional practice. His mission for the industry is to bridge the gap between local companies, best practices, and excellence, in Engineering and other Technical Services, for a sustainable development.

George is a prominent and active member and fellow of various professional associations in Nigeria and abroad including Fellow, Nigerian Society of Engineers (FNSE); Fellow, Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers (FNICE); Fellow, Nigerian Institution of Highway and Transportation Engineers (FNIHTE); Member, American Society of Civil Engineers; Member, Institution of Diagnostic Engineers UK (MIDiagE); and Council Member, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) to mention a few. Engr. George is presently, the Honourable Treasurer for FIDIC AFRICA.

His engineering prowess has earned him several awards and recognitions which include Distinguished Service Award, Nigerian Society of Engineers 2007; Justice of The Peace by the Nigerian Government 2010; Distinguished Service Award by ACEN, 2013; Presidential Merit Award for Exemplary commitment to the Engineering Profession and support to the Ideals of the Nigerian Society of Engineers 2015; Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by The Nigerian Institution of Highways 2016, Leads Africa Merit Award of Excellence 2018, Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 among others.

5.2 ACEN Business Evening of 23rd June 2020

The ACEN Business Evening is an event in a relaxed atmosphere where members come together to exchange ideas. The topic for discussion for this edition of the event was 'The Fate of Consultancy Services/Projects in Nigeria after COVID-19'.

The speaker posited that the effect of COVID-19 could be relative, according to the firm's position in the industry value-chain. He analyzed the impact of COVID-19, likely scenarios, survival strategies and submitted that only firms that are resilient, able to remain stable, and able to develop expertise, good work processes, quality service and value for money in service delivery, would be patronized by prospective clients.

5.3 Member Associations' Newsletters

GCEA News

Inside this issue: https://www.cesa.co.za/uploads/GCEA_NEWS_-_2020_2nd_Quarter.pdf

COVID-19 Disease and Preventive Tips	FIDIC CEO's COVID-19 Report	GCEA Online Council Meeting Outcomes
President's Message 2	FIDIC COVID-19 Webinar Series	Know Your Councilors
Ghana's COVID-19 Situation	GAMA Online General Meeting	GCEA Year Planner 12

CESA - [CE-track](#)

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CESA joins government and business leaders to come up with solutions at SIDSSA	Business Day TV – The Construction Sector amid the COVID-19 Pandemic		
Supporting municipalities towards improved service delivery and wiser spending	Challenges facing consulting engineers now exacerbated by Covid-19 restrictions		
Government must embrace opportunities for infrastructure development amid pandemic	CESA Presidential Webinars		

6. Education & Training News

6.1 FIDIC Covid-19 webinar series sees thousands sign up

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged our industry and people in many ways and as part of FIDIC's global response to the pandemic, the organisation organised a very well attended international webinar series from March to June 2020 on the industry response to Covid-19.



The incredibly popular webinar series ran over for ten weeks and attracted more than 15,000 people from 150 countries worldwide. Post-event news reports were made available via the FIDIC website and webinar recordings were posted and gained over 10,000 views from all sectors and demographics. The series covered an extensive range of important topics around Covid-19 and its implications for the industry and on projects and post-Covid recovery within the industry was also discussed. The webinars attracted 80 global speakers from all sectors within the consultancy, engineering, and infrastructure industry. The resounding success of these webinars is set to be continued with a further 'Coming out of Covid' series of events, FIDIC's State of the World reports and webinar series as well as FIDIC's first-ever international online conference, set to take place over two days on 11 and 14 September 2020 where delegates from around the world

will discuss "Engineering a post-Covid future - the challenges for global infrastructure"

Given the significant challenge that Covid-19 has presented, FIDIC is planning to continue its central role in the industry during the above two-day online conference series by hosting a series of topical discussions around the post-Covid recovery, sustainability and project management and contracts post-pandemic. Make sure to stay connected via the FIDIC website and various social media channels for details and key information on the above events.

Find out more at www.fidic.org

6.2 CESA School of Consulting Engineering

Learning more accessible than ever before

The COVID-19 pandemic and physical distancing requirements has changed the face of education and training across all industries; however, it is not all bad news for learners. Properly executed, virtual/online training courses have shown that they can be just as effective as the in-person classroom experience. Thanks to modern communications technology, the trainer can address multiple delegates at once, from multiple geographies, in real-time.

Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) has invested in the development of online training courses to assist its 580 member firms, contractors, and their clients to train their staff. With over [60 different courses](#) available through a virtual platform, learning has become more accessible than ever before.

CESA encourages every single company, regardless of its size, to invest in training its employees in one way or the other. This is not only a crucial step for employee development but is also necessary for business growth.

CESA's School of Consulting Engineering (SCE) has been presenting classroom training for the past twenty years. In the last few months, the SCE has pivoted, transforming all its classroom training into virtual training courses presented via Zoom. This allows individuals to attend courses from anywhere in the world and in the comfort of their office, onsite or home.

The recent changes in the nature of learning has made professional and personal development accessible to more people than previously, without compromising on quality. SCE training courses are all validated with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits, and comprise of theoretical training, interactive discussions, exercises, and case studies that are deliberated in break-away sessions. In a world forever changed, they key to professional development lies in an internet connection.

If real-time training does not suit your schedule, the SCE also has a 24/7 e-learning platform which has pre-recorded webinars, training videos and recordings of some of the virtual classroom courses. The platform also offers access to CPD-approved self-study

aid documents, such as journals, technical papers, industry related articles, conference papers and case studies	Subscribe	Past Issues	Translate ▼	RSS 
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Regardless of where you are in the world, if you want to keep your South African ECSA professional registration, SCE is the place to start. Thanks to this comprehensive virtual learning environment, your CPD points are a click away. What is more, if you are heading up a voluntary association, you too could be offering the same courses to your members through the SCE e-learning platform. This is a wonderful way to keep your members up-to-date and well-informed, while creating an additional revenue stream for your association.

For more information please contact Brenda Lacey-Smith, CESA's Education and Training Manager, on brenda@cesa.co.za.

7. 2020 Calendar of Events

ACEB ACEB Gala Dinner - 23 October 2020	ACEZ Golf Day - 25 September 2020
CESA 2020 Calendar - download CESA YP Leadership Webinars - March to October 2020 CESA YP Imbizo/Conference - September to December 2020 CESA Aon Engineering Excellence Awards - 11 November 2020 CESA AGM - 25 November 2020	GCEA Outreach - October 2020 GCEA AGM – 1-3 December 2020
FIDIC GAM, Presidents & DNS Meetings – 15 September 2020	ACEN 2020 CALENDAR - download

8. Acknowledgements

The FIDIC AFRICA Bulletin has been issued in association with all MA's, some of whom might not have been able to contribute at the time of publication:

ACEB - Association of Consulting Engineers Botswana W: http://www.aceb.org.bw/	ACEK - Association of Consulting Engineers of Kenya W: http://www.acek.co.ke/
ACEM - Association of Consulting Engineers of Malawi W: http://fidic.org/organization/139	ACEN – Association for Consulting Engineers Nigeria (ACEN) W: https://www.acen.org.ng/home/
ACET - Association of Consulting Engineers of Tanzania https://www.acet.or.tz/	ACEZ - Association of Consulting Engineers of Zambia W: https://www.acez.co.zm/
AEMC - Associação de Empresas Moçambicanas de Consultoria W: https://aemc.org.mz/	ANBEIC - Association Nationale des Bureaux d'Etudes et des Ingénieurs Conseils W: http://anbeictunisie.com/anglais
CESA – Consulting Engineers South Africa W: https://www.cesa.co.za/	EES - Egyptian Engineers Syndicate W: http://eea.org.eg/
GCEA – Ghana Consulting Engineers Association W: http://gcea.org.gh/	SEACA - Sudanese Engineering and Architecture Consultancy Association W: http://fidic.org/organization/168
FMCI - Moroccan Federation of Consulting and Engineering W: http://www.fmci.ma/en/index.php	OICM - Order of Consulting Engineers of Mali W: http://www.oicmali.com/home/?lang=en

UACE - Uganda Association of Consulting Engineers Subscribe	Past Issues		Translate ▼	RSS 
FIDIC - Fédération Internationale des Ingénieurs Conseils W: http://fidic.org/				

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