



International Federation of Consulting Engineers  
The Global Voice of Consulting Engineers

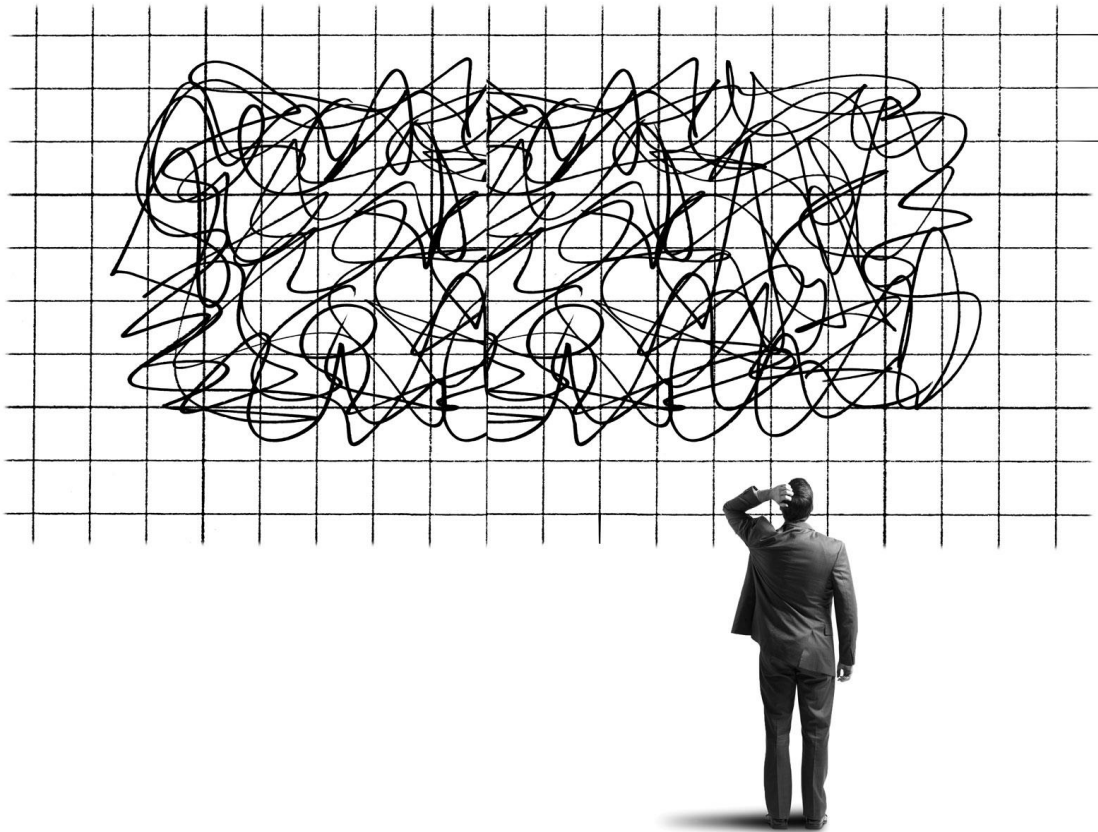
# CEO's *Update* Coronavirus weekly



## Issue 8: Friday 15 May 2020

Dear colleagues

### Uncertain picture in the world's Covid journey



As more countries around the world begin to emerge slowly from their coronavirus lockdowns, others continue to struggle with rising infection rates and new restrictions on movement, business activity and daily life. As we are finding out from the speakers and attendees at our Covid-19 series of webinars, the global picture is uneven and uncertain with different countries at varying stages as they battle with rolling back the virus. What is becoming clear however is that the effects of this pandemic will be with us for some time to come and it will have a significant negative effect on the global economy and our industry.

Global uncertainty about the future is increasing. Indeed, the IMF's World Uncertainty Index, which covers 143 countries around the world with a population of at least two million, has now reached record levels. During the global financial crisis of 2009, the index was 340. The Iraq war saw it rise to 550 while the Covid-19 crisis has seen it rocket up to 820 – an all-time high. Uncertainty is never good for business or investment and the hope must be that international governments take the right coordinated measures to safeguard the global economy.

The feedback FIDIC is getting from stakeholders around the world indicates that governments still see infrastructure investment as a key driver of their economies, especially as they begin to emerge from the Covid crisis. However, these governments will face big pressures on their economies over the coming months, so we will need to make the positive case for infrastructure investment as being crucial in rebuilding the world's ailing economies, restoring commercial confidence and providing a much needed boost to citizens as they grapple with the post-Covid environment. FIDIC will continue to make this positive case and stand up for our industry over the coming months.

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**Next stage of FIDIC Covid-19 webinar series**



This week saw the latest two webinars in FIDIC's Covid-19 series of events. We have now held ten webinars which have attracted almost 7,000 attendees. That's a fantastic turnout and the success of these events is a tribute to the excellent speakers we've had and the superb organisation by the FIDIC secretariat team. Eight webinars remain in our series and the next event on Monday 18 May is looking at the challenges involved in communicating internally and externally during the Covid crisis and the lessons to be learned from that. Future events in the webinar series will start to look at how the economy and industry will respond and change post Covid-19 by examining issues like how to kick-start the economy by investing in infrastructure, the role of the international finance institutions in the recovery process, the perspective from clients, investors and developers, what the 'new normal' looks like, international governments' response, industry resilience and the overall lessons to be learned from the crisis. The remaining eight webinars in the series promise to be essential for all those looking to chart a route through the current crisis and are sure to be well attended. Find out more and book your places early at the link below.

[Click here for full details and booking information for the FIDIC Covid-19 webinar series](#)

## Download FIDIC Covid-19 guidance documents

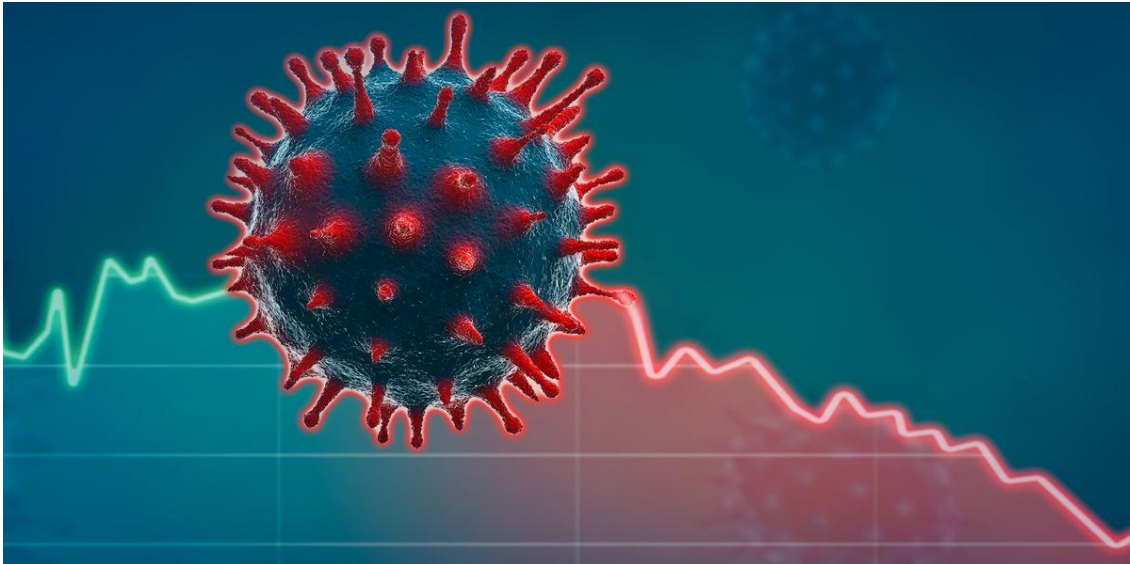


FIDIC's Covid-19 guidance documents for the industry continue to be downloaded in great numbers. Our Covid-19: FIDIC Guidance for Global Consulting Engineering Business provides general guidance to FIDIC member associations and consulting engineering firms to help them survive the crisis and to thrive beyond it. The Covid-19: guidance memorandum for users of FIDIC standard forms of works contract outlines the provisions in FIDIC's various general conditions of contract for works which may be relevant with regard to likely scenarios that are arising as a consequence of Covid-19 and we have also published a Covid-19: guidance memorandum for on-site working and project team organisation to allow consulting engineering firms to consider as many facets of the current pandemic situation as may apply to their organisation and particularly to their staff. Links to download all these guidance documents can be found on the Covid-19 page of the FIDIC website at <https://fidic.org/COVID-19>.

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## Crisis planning in the spotlight





Our latest FIDIC webinar, held only yesterday on 14 May, explored some of the key issues around how companies have developed crisis plans dynamically when experiencing uncertainty around the current Covid-19 pandemic. I was struck by how all the webinar panellists' firms had taken an organised but flexible approach to their response to coronavirus and the absolute focus that all had maintained on looking after the health and wellbeing of their staff while facilitating them working from home. Atkins divisional business development director Anthony Hardingham spoke about how his firm had decanted its 10,000 UK staff to working from home in just three weeks. This is a process that has been repeated by countless firms across the world – and even in areas where working from home is not part of the national culture. We have seen professional staff and industry leaders alike having to move out of their comfort zones and work in a completely different way. Planning to enable firms to be able to do that has been crucial and it has been enormously encouraging to see our industry carry out these changes in an overall efficient way. Perhaps we should not be too surprised at this – after all, engineers pride themselves on being organised, methodical and flexible. And it is flexibility that has been a hallmark of many companies' crisis planning during the current pandemic. You can read a report of FIDIC's crisis planning webinar below.

[Click here to read the report of our Covid-19 crisis planning webinar](#)

## Extension of deadline for board nominations



FIDIC is keen to have a diverse group of candidates to fill the two available vacancies on the FIDIC board from September 2020. Considering the current Covid-19 situation and the difficulties that some member associations are experiencing in communicating with potential candidates, the board has decided to extend the deadline for submission of nominations until 29 May 2020. The board is keen to improve its diversity and inclusion and to that end has identified that the composition of the board would be significantly improved if those nominated are female, African, Middle Eastern and/or Latin American and the board's capability would be enhanced if those nominated have expertise or skills in marketing, contracts, or information technology. Those interested in making a nomination for the board should contact Italo Goyzueta, FIDIC's federation operations director at [igoyzueta@fidic.org](mailto:igoyzueta@fidic.org).

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**More discounted training courses from FIDIC**

# TRAINING COURSE DISCOUNTS

FIDIC is continuing to offer online courses at a discounted rate to assist industry professionals looking for contract training opportunities during these challenging times. Our FIDIC Online Module 0: The FIDIC Suite of Services Agreements course focuses on contract clauses and the practical use of some key FIDIC documents illustrated through real life case stories, discussion and comments from the course presenter. The start date is 25 May 2020 and the cost with a 25% reduction is €1,600. We also have a FIDIC Online Module 1: Practical use of FIDIC conditions of contracts course which presents the practical use of FIDIC Conditions of Contracts on the 1999 Red and Yellow Books with highlights of the 2017 Second Editions. The start date for this course is 24 June 2020 and the cost with a 20% reduction is €2,000.

[Click here for full details of the FIDIC Online Module 0 course](#)

[Click here for full details of the FIDIC Online Module 1 course](#)

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**FIDIC gears up to announce revamp of committees**



Despite the difficulties brought by the coronavirus, work has been continuing apace on FIDIC's committee structure such that we will shortly announce a major revamping of a number of our standing committees, following a call for new members to increase the expertise at our disposal in a number of areas. We are currently finalising the composition of seven committees and will be announcing the names of the chairs and committee members over the coming weeks. The work of our committees is vital for FIDIC as they bring their significant and considerable knowledge and experience in drafting, producing, regulating, influencing and representing FIDIC and the consultancy and engineering industry across the globe. The revamp will increase FIDIC's capability across a number of industry expertise areas and make us better placed to represent the industry to key stakeholders. We will announce the new committee memberships in early June. Keep an eye on the FIDIC website for details.



Best wishes to you and your families.

Stay safe, keep well - and keep the feedback coming!



Dr Nelson Ogunshakin, OBE  
Chief Executive, FIDIC

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