



Issue 14: February 2021

Dear colleagues

Welcome to issue number 14 of the *FIDIC CEO's Update*, my regular round-up of the latest FIDIC activities, initiatives and events.

Introduction



As ever, FIDIC staff continue to work largely remotely due to the ongoing Covid pandemic restrictions and we can only hope that the implementation of the global vaccination programme is successful so that we can start thinking about a greater return to some form of normality in the months ahead.

We are only one month into 2021 and already it is clear that FIDIC is in for another very busy year ahead. Our new online events programme is up and running and once again it's great to see hundreds of industry professionals from around the globe signing up to attend our popular webinar series. Building on the success of last year's successful events, it's clear that FIDIC is now able to attract knowledgeable global industry experts to speak at our webinars and we are grateful to all those who are working with us. February promises to be a particularly busy month as it sees the launch of FIDIC's new State of the World report series, the continuation of our Covid 2021 and FIDIC committee series of events, the build up to the launch of the new FIDIC Credentialing company and the roll-out of our Infrastructure Global platform.

A changing business model for changing times



In an uncertain world, the need for a dynamic federation and member associations (MAs) is greater than ever. The Covid-19 crisis has been a

powerful reminder of the value our MAs can deliver for their member firms and also the ability of MAs to adapt quickly when given a compelling reason to do so. No federation or member association can reach its full potential while shackled by operating models that are no longer effective. The evolution of society to an ultra-connected business environment now requires similar evolution in our MAs and indeed in FIDIC too.

As FIDIC is being transformed into digital organisation, I am pleased to see a number of our member associations following the same moves by transforming their business model in responding to the changes in the business environment. Over the months ahead, the FIDIC secretariat will be working with the FIDIC membership committee to revamp our operational and commercial support activities for the FIDIC regional groups and MAs with a view to enhance our value proposition and assist them to effect the necessary transformation programme for the future.

Attendance at EFCA board



I was pleased to be invited by EFCA president Benoit Clocheret to attend their board meeting earlier in the month in support of Mark Pehlig, the FIDIC board member liaison. This gave us the opportunity to update the EFCA board on

FIDIC activities, review the progress on our FIDIC-EFCA agreement, address their concerns on credentialing, outline how the FIDIC committee liaison will work with the regions and discuss FIDIC activities for the rest of the year. I look forward to a similar opportunity to be invited to other FIDIC regional groups' board meetings to strengthen our connectivity with the regions as part of our ongoing and developing regional strategy.

Launch of FIDIC Credentialing



Credentialing Limited
Certification Body for Global Consulting Professionals

This month sees two important information events to update our stakeholders as we move closer to the March launch of the new FIDIC Credentialing initiative programme, FCL Limited. This new company will offer certification and professional development services to a range of professionals working in the global infrastructure, engineering and construction industry and we hope it will herald a new era for credentialing for the construction and infrastructure sector, ensuring that evaluation and certification programmes are available all year round to industry professionals. To ensure that key FIDIC stakeholders are kept

fully informed on our plans, we have organised two ‘town hall’ meetings to give attendees an introduction and background to FIDIC Credentialing, to explain what it is and how it will work and to outline the significant benefits to firms, member associations, organisations, clients and the wider industry. We will use the feedback from these sessions to further refine our plans in the run up to FCL’s launch in early March.

Thanos Totsikas appointed as general manager of FIDIC Credentialing



I’m also delighted to announce that we have appointed Thanos Totsikas as the general manager of FIDIC Credentialing (FCL). Thanos will oversee and be responsible for all key areas of FCL’s operations including governance,

programme delivery, accreditation standards and business development. This is a key appointment and Thanos will bring to it extensive experience in business administration, quality management, business development and process improvement in the IT, vocational training, assessment, and certification industry internationally. I am looking forward to Thanos's input into the launch of FCL and its global roll-out over the coming months and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anil Iyer, project manager and Folake Idowu, corporate development executive, who have been responsible for working with me over the last year on the development of the initiative. I am very pleased to have Thanos as a key member of the FCL team.

State of the World report series launches this month



Another important launch event this month is our new FIDIC State of the World report series. The first report, Time to \$Tn-vest, is being launched at a webinar on 18 February 2021 and will highlight the \$5 trillion investment challenge facing the global infrastructure sector. We are delighted to have secured Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank vice president Sir Danny Alexander as one of the speakers at the launch event webinar and are looking forward to hearing his insights on the challenges facing our industry. As Danny states, writing in the first FIDIC State of the World report, "The report highlights the multibillion dollar

challenge the infrastructure sector is facing not only in light of meeting current needs, but also in light of the sustainable development goals and the potential new challenges caused as a result of governments taking proactive action against Covid, possibly the worst pandemic of several generations.” I would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors to the report - Adam Bialachowski, chair of the FIDIC Future Leaders group, Tracey Ryan, chair of our sustainable development committee and special thanks to Graham Pontin, FIDIC head of economics and strategic policy, who is responsible for the planning and delivery of the new State of the World report series.

[Click here to register to attend, “Time to \\$Tn-vest”, the first State of the World launch event](#)

Improving client capacity on FIDIC contracts in emerging countries



The latest in our series of FIDIC committee webinars taking place this month is a very interesting event on Tuesday 23 February 2021 looking at how we enhance and improve the capacity of clients and employers in emerging countries in the area of FIDIC contract management. The webinar, “Improving

the capacity of clients in emerging countries on FIDIC contract management”, has been organised by the FIDIC Capacity Building Committee and will explore the support available to clients unused to working with FIDIC contracts, also highlighting the benefits of using them on global construction and infrastructure contracts. Given that the contracts are widely used by hundreds of clients around the world and the fact that they have been endorsed by many of the multilateral development banks, we are seeing them increasingly used by both emerging countries in the developing world, as much as advanced countries on major trans-continental billion-dollar infrastructure power projects. This webinar is therefore well timed and I encourage all those interested to sign up.

[Click here to sign up for the webinar, “Improving the capacity of clients in emerging countries on FIDIC contract management”](#)

[Click here to view the rest of FIDIC’s 2021 committee webinar programme](#)

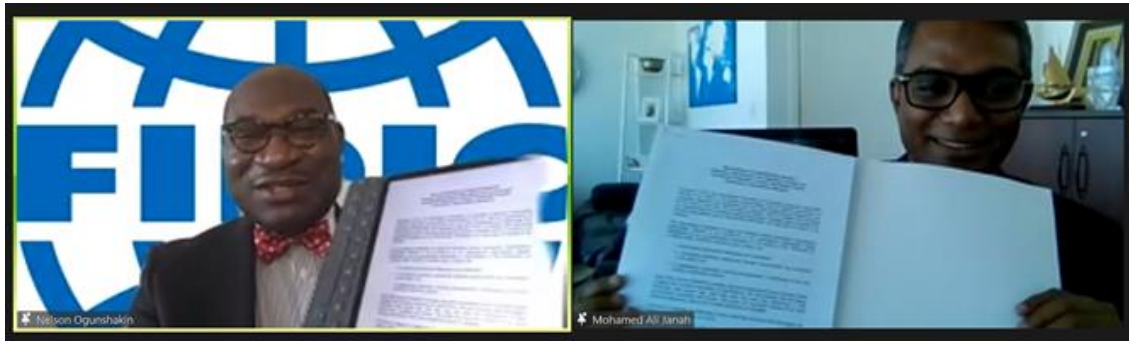
New FIDIC business bulletin series on impact of Covid-19



Last month saw FIDIC issue the first in a series of business bulletins highlighting the impact of Covid-19 on business practices in consulting engineering firms. Based on information gathered from 48 senior industry leaders in 19 countries across the world, the first bulletin focused on the new and evolving challenges faced by consulting engineering firms in their internal environment with respect to their staff, facilities and their resulting best practices. I want to pay tribute to FIDIC's business practice committee chair Andrew Read and his forward-thinking team for undertaking this valuable work on behalf of our industry. In Bulletin 1: Workplace Challenges and Best Practices, industry leaders offered their views on a range of key issues, including working from home, the future of office space, communications with employees and performance evaluation, flexible working, employee independence and workplace morale, mental health and employee best practices. Future editions of these FIDIC Covid bulletins are likely to focus on internal business practices, the external business environment, new opportunities, gender impacts, young professionals' impacts, preferred technologies and post-Covid transition. I would very much welcome contributions from our member associations in the data collection from their member firms to ensure that the content of the bulletin truly reflects FIDIC's global footprint.

[Click here to read the FIDIC Covid Bulletin 1: Workplace Challenges and Best Practices](#)

Strategic agreement with Asian and Western Pacific Contractors



January saw FIDIC sign yet another major strategic collaboration agreement with an influential global industry body. The two-year memorandum of understanding we have signed with the International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors Associations (IFAWPCA) will see us both working more closely together and collaborating on matters of mutual interest. The agreement should be a big boost for members of FIDIC and IFAWPCA and all those international consulting and engineering firms and contractors that work in the Asia Pacific region. We look forward to working with IFAWPCA president Mohamed Ali Janah and his team over the next two years.

[Click here for more information about the FIDIC/ IFAWPCA agreement](#)

FIDIC Contract Users' Conferences update



I wanted to say a few words in this *CEO's Update* about the new direction that FIDIC is taking with its series of Contract Users' Conferences. We have decided to take the running of these events in-house, for now, following a holistic view of our existing events and conferences and consideration of different delivery possibilities. Going forward, we will ensure that the voice of the FIDIC Contracts community is heard and indeed amplified and we believe that FIDIC now has access to sufficient platforms and engagement with our contract user community to initially take this work in-house and to provide an even better service to our stakeholders as a result.

Planning and delivering future Contract Users' Conferences in-house will bring FIDIC much closer to the subjects under discussion and to the delegates, as well as enhancing our relationship with the FIDIC Contracts Committee, which will continue to play a key role in the delivery of our contracts events. We plan to improve the content and quality of these conferences by renewing, revamping and relaunching them. We will put FIDIC's contract users back at the centre of these events, listen to them and what they want to learn about and give a wider range of speakers the opportunity to share their regional experiences of using FIDIC Contracts. Our conference and events team are now hard at work organising the programmes for a series of Official FIDIC Contract Users' Conferences that we will organise over the coming year. These are the only contract users' events endorsed and approved by FIDIC and you can view all the details and dates and register your interest of these events by following the link below.

[Click here to find out more about the 2021 Official FIDIC Contract Users' Conferences](#)

Help us to improve diversity and inclusion on the FIDIC board



The FIDIC webinar on “Improving diversity and inclusion in the engineering industry” that took place on Tuesday this week highlighted once again the importance of this crucial issue. I reported last month that there would be opportunities in September 2021 at our General Assembly Meeting to improve the diversity and inclusion of the FIDIC board’s composition as we seek new board members for two vacant roles. Our board has recommended a minimum target of one third of board composition to be female and we are determined to reach that target during the term of our strategic plan 2020-2024. FIDIC must represent more clearly and transparently the diverse society that our global industry influences and the FIDIC president William Howard, the board and myself are absolutely committed to improving the current composition of FIDIC’s governing body in this regard. I would appeal to all our MAs to take note of the request for candidates for the board that they have received and to take action on it by putting forward candidates who will help our board improve

its diversity. Please contact us at the FIDIC secretariat if you would like to discuss this issue further, but we really need our MAs to step up to the plate on this important issue for our industry.

Please do keep your feedback and comments coming – they are always very welcome.



I look forward to updating you all again in March.

With best wishes,

Nelson Ogunshakin

Dr Nelson Ogunshakin FICE, OBE
Chief Executive, FIDIC



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