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1. Words by President, FIDIC Africa, Eng Kabelo Motswagole:



It gives me enormous pleasure to write this foreword to this issue of the FIDIC Africa Bulletin. These bulletins provide an essential means of communication with our members and stakeholders.

When the second issue of the bulletin was published mid last year, we were just starting to experience the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. Since then, the impact of the pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the social, economic, and political aspects of our lives. The Engineering Industry and the world at large have had to adapt to a new normal at a huge cost to most of the world's economies. It is my hope and prayer that while concentrating on fighting COVID 19, Governments across Africa will not lose sight of the fact that good infrastructure, especially medical facilities, roads, clean water, and sanitation form the very backbone of this fight and a recognised Consulting Engineer is the principal professional service provider for planning and delivering such

infrastructure.

FIDIC Africa Exco had a very busy 8 (eight) months. Most of these activities have been shared with you by the Secretariat. We have established a very informative Presidents Forum consisting of the Presidents of the MA'S. FIDIC has also established a Regional Presidents Forum consisting of all the Presidents of the FIDIC Regional bodies. These have played a critical role in ensuring that the issues and programmes affecting Member Associations and Regional bodies are able to be shared and addressed.

I am particularly pleased to acknowledge the election to the FIDIC Board our FIDIC Africa Immediate Past President, Engineer James N. Mwangi. Kindly join me in congratulating Eng. Mwangi on this well-deserved appointment. I have no doubt that he will contribute meaningfully to this important body and provide a pivotal link between FIDIC and FIDIC Africa Exco as he continues to serve on the Exco of FIDIC Africa, a break from past practices, when Immediate Past Presidents of FIDIC GAMA seemed to all but disappear into the mist once, their terms of office had ended.

[Click here to read full article.](#)



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2. Update by the Secretariat, Eng. Chris Campbell:



Since our last bulletin, we have embarked on many more initiatives which will in the future ensure that FIDIC Africa develops a stable and independent Secretariat. One of the key achievements to be noted under the leadership and guidance of our current President, Eng. Motswagole and Exco, was that of improving on communication and actively driving the lobby which contributed to the successful election of our immediate Past President, Eng. Mwangi to the FIDIC Board.

In conjunction with FIDIC, we too will be increasing the sharing of information and simultaneously, as current Chair of the FIDIC Directors and Secretaries Advisory Council (DNSAC), we are happy to share with you that the DNSAC plans to host a series of MA Best Practice Webinars through the course of 2021 directed at Member Associations, at which time detailed experiences will be shared by participants from MA's in both developed and developing Countries.

Furthermore, having considered the ever-present risk of the spread of the COVID-19, I confirm that FIDIC Africa Exco, has decided to pursue the hosting of the annual Infrastructure Conference in an online format, targeting May 18 and 19 this year, faced with the challenge of the concern that it would be unthinkable to entertain a situation which would see us having had no such occasion, for the benefit of our Members, for a second year in succession. Preparations are underway with the Deputy President Eng. Thela as the Chair of the Organising Committee supported by the Exco and Secretariat.

Over the past period we have seen an increased focus on FIDIC considering the stepping up of its efforts towards Regional support and as this materialises for our Region, so we will in turn be better positioned and capacitated to assist our own Member Associations on the Continent towards greater levels of sustainability. Many of the operational projects which we have embarked on have borne fruit over the course of the year.

In the drive to increase membership we have seen the likes of the Member Association in Angola join FIDIC Africa early in 2020 and the Member Association in Namibia join towards the end of 2020. Furthermore, one of our existing Member Associations, namely Zimbabwe, have regrouped and will be more actively involved in FIDIC Africa activities through 2021 and for the foreseeable future. In addition, initial communications, facilitated by our Member Association in Mali, have commenced with the broader francophone Consulting Engineering fraternity, with the hope that we would increase membership further, such that we attain the Regional recognition we deserve. Interaction between FIDIC Africa Exco and FIDIC are ongoing in respect of the Regionalisation Strategy and it has been recognised that whilst regions such as in the USA, Canada and Europe require little or no support from FIDIC and have somewhat agreed to align their brands with that of FIDIC, it is true on the other hand that regions such as Africa, Asia-Pacific and South American, do require more support from FIDIC to assist in achieving stable and functional Secretariats. [Click here to read full article.](#)



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3. ZACE News - Announcing new Board members.

ZACE is pleased to announce a new Board Members for the term ending June 2021.

Eng. J. Gumbodete (President), Eng. G. Bema (Vice President), Eng. B. Musarurwa (Immediate Past President), Eng. R. Naik (Treasurer), Eng. P. Morris, Eng. R. Bhunu, Eng. P. Madzimure, Eng. B. Mugabe, Eng. M. Kurebwaseka, Eng. M. Nyabvure, Eng. F. Machakaire, Eng. G. Bema, Eng. L. Agere, and Eng. L. Fende

4. ACEN News

The year 2020, though quite challenging owing to the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic was still a productive year for ACEN.

2020 ACEN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

The 2020 ACEN Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) took place online via Zoom on 30th July 2020. The event centred on the theme '**The Survival and Strengthening of Consulting Engineering Practice in Disruptive and Uncertain Times**'.

It was well attended with One Hundred and Twenty (120) attendees and was graced by dignitaries including FIDIC CEO, Engr. Nelson Ogunshakin FICE, OBE, who was the Guest Speaker and the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Engr. Suleiman Adamu, FNSE, FAEng who was the Keynote Speaker.

The speakers emphasised the need to examine the threats and opportunities posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and harness the energy and resources of members through the formation of local consortia to handle the challenges instead of operating in traditional small firms.

Also, Consulting Engineers were urged to focus on the design and implementation of home-grown tested solutions to address the nation's developmental challenges as a response to the lessons learnt from the pandemic.

3rd ACEN Business Evening of 27th August 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 '**Post COVID-19: Immediate and Medium Terms Challenges to Consulting Engineering Profession in Nigeria and Solutions**'.

The speaker pointed out challenges such as staff management (location of work, issues with remuneration, availability of efficient tools to work), the slowdown/absence of workload and the scarcity of cash flow and posited solutions including remote work practices; IT infrastructure upgrading; pay cuts pending improvement in cash flow; 'rostered' office work, the importance of marketing, good corporate governance practices, compliance with statutory obligations and registrations, etc. Also, participants were urged to position their firms well to be able to harness opportunities arising from the decrease of competition from foreign firms resulting from the reduction in business travels because of COVID-19. [Click here to read the full article.](#)



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5. UACE News

Engineering a post-COVID-19 future: the challenges of global infrastructure

When this concluding year was starting, our prayer for everyone was for attainment and great exploits.... then came the X factor! The year then folded itself in just one issue and that has been survival. We at UACE therefore, stand side-by side with all those that are still hanging on and hoping that we shall spring out of these dark times. But on the other hand, we condole with all those that have been robbed of their dear ones and pray that this ordeal shall work out for the good by the mercies of the Most High God.

UACE now brings you this end of year issue of our Newsletter with wonderful articles geared at stirring everyone up as we together engineer a post-COVID future. One key lesson from this years' experience is the cruciality of keeping healthy and how this can be engineered into our infrastructure and consequently our lives – take for example the exploration into making non-motorized transport (NMT) as attractive and hence a number one choice and not as has traditionally been treated, a result of economic constraints. NMT not only contributes to reduce on emissions of health threatening pollutants into the air arising from use of motorized transport but it also contributes to the health of the consumer as medical science recommends at least 30 minutes to an hour of exercise daily for everyone who desires to be healthy and fit. And now with this X factor still lingering, there is more need to social distance, and this is better provided by NMT than is by motorized traffic. We can consider more as we purpose to extract all the positives out of these perilous times as we aim towards a post-COVID future.

Our best wishes also for peace to prevail both towards and after elections and may the best leaders as chosen by the Heavens win in the forthcoming elections.

Eng. Nsimbe Joseph, UACE Secretary General

6. FIDIC webinar underlines an industry united on UN's International Anti-Corruption day

On 9 December 2020 FIDIC hosted a special webinar to mark the UN's International Anti-Corruption Day. More than 250 people attended this FIDIC webinar entitled "Recovery with Integrity" and the event played host to a wide range of global speakers on the topic of corruption in the industry.

The event was moderated by FIDIC CEO Dr Nelson Ogunshakin, and speakers included FIDIC board member James Mwangi from Kenya, Hamid Sharif, managing director at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in China, Julianna Fox, chief ethics, and compliance officer at WSP Global Inc in Canada and Petter Matthews, executive director of CoST, the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative from the UK.

Summing up the event, FIDIC CEO Nelson Ogunshakin said that FIDIC would continue to use its global reach to send out a positive signal to all those concerned about transparency and ethical issues around corruption in the industry. "Having a UN Anti-Corruption Day is a great initiative, but we also need to be ever vigilant and work tirelessly all year round to raise awareness





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of the scourge of corruption. Corruption has no place in the infrastructure sector or anywhere else and FIDIC is proud to be playing its part in rooting it out," Ogunshakin said.

FIDIC is hosting a 2021 series of free live webinars. All FIDIC's committees are organising the webinars throughout the year on issues of topical interest. Click [here](#) to see the list of webinars and to book your free place.

A recording of the webinar "Recovery with Integrity" is available [here](#).

7. Africa House News

Africa House is a partner of the FIDIC Africa. Member associations and their consulting engineers can expect to receive insight and access into the African trade and project environment through the provision of intelligence on projects and bespoke research on opportunities in markets. Link to the past Bulletins:

- [12 January 2021 Weekly Bulletin](#)
- [19 January 2021 Weekly Bulletin](#)
- [26 January 2021 Weekly Bulletin](#)

8. Member Associations' Newsletters:

- Association for Consulting Engineers Nigeria (ACEN) – The Consulting Engineer Magazine – Click [here](#)
- Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) – CE-track December 2020
<https://www.cesa.co.za/cetrack/dec2020/index.html>
- Uganda Association of Consulting Engineers (UACE) – Newsletter December 2020
http://www.cesa.co.za/uploads/UACE_Newsletter_December_2020.pdf
- Association of Consulting Engineers of Kenya (ACEK) – <https://acek.co.ke/consulting-engineer-magazine/>

9. 2021 Calendar of Events:

Association of Consulting Engineers Botswana (ACEB) - Click here to peruse the calendar	Association of Consulting Engineers of Zambia (ACEZ) - Click here to peruse the calendar
Association for Consulting Engineers Nigeria (ACEN) - Click here to peruse the calendar	Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) - Click here to peruse the calendar
Ghana Consulting Engineers Association (GCEA) - Click here to peruse the calendar	



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10. The bulletin has been issued in association with:

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 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 W: https://www.uace.or.ug/	ZACE - Zimbabwe Association of Consulting Engineers W: https://www.zace.co.zw/
ACEN - Association of Consulting Engineers of Namibia W: https://www.acen.org.na	FIDIC - Fédération Internationale des Ingénieurs Conseils W: http://fidic.org/