



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS OF ZAMBIA

HIGHLIGHT REPORT

2023 in a Glance

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1. Introduction

The year 2023 has propelled the Association of Consulting Engineers of Zambia (ACEZ) on an explorative and rewarding uphill trajectory, luminating a path of continuous growth of the Association. ACEZ opened up channels for diverse industry connections, and out-of-the-box thinking among its staff and members, who learnt just how interconnected professions are, with mandates that merge towards the common goal of ensuring the sustainability of the planet. As the year comes to an end, this highlight report takes a glance at activities that worked towards promoting the interests of consulting engineers and expressed the Association's willingness to partake in solving issues affecting the globe through demonstrable actions.

2. ACEZ Ushers in 57th Council

The Association held its 57th Annual General Meeting on 14th April 2023 at Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere Hotel in Lusaka. A new Council was instated, which is now led by ACEZ President Eng. Oliver Makungu and Vice President Eng. Tresphor Musonda. Elected Council members included:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. President | - Eng. Oliver Makungu |
| 2. Vice President | - Eng. Tresphor Musonda |
| 3. Immediate Past President | - Eng. Andrew Ngosa |
| 4. Council Member (Chief Executive Officer) | - Mrs. Chituwa S. Chulu |
| 5. Council Member (Future Leader) | - Eng. Pauline Phiri |
| 6. Council Member | - Eng. Joseph Munalula |
| 7. Council Member | - Eng. Martina Hess |
| 8. Council Member | - Eng. Gomezyani Mwaba |
| 9. Council Member | - Eng. Hopeson Kasumba |
| 10. Council Member | - Eng. Joseph Nyirenda |
| 11. Council Member | - Eng. Adilson Vilinga |
| 12. Council Member | - Eng. Rodgers Chilenje |
| 13. Council Member | - Eng. Sydney Mudenda |
| 14. Council Member | - Eng. Lucy Tembo |



Elected 57th ACEZ Council

The AGM preceded a Cocktail Event which later took place at 18h00, to officially inaugurate the newly elected Council. This auspicious event was graced by Guest of Honour, Permanent

Secretary for the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, Eng. Frederick Mwalusaka. It availed an opportunity for ACEZ to express its willingness to collaborate with the Government by addressing prevailing issues affecting the Consulting Engineering industry and offering solutions for the continuity and growth of the profession, ultimately for the betterment of society.



Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, Eng. Frederick Mwalusaka



Future Leaders with EIZ President, Eng. Abel Ng'andu



Recipients of awards of appreciation for dedicated service to the Association



ACEZ Members networking at the AGM



ACEZ Members at the cocktail function

This was a much-anticipated gathering, as it was the first physically attended AGM following the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.

3. ACEZ hosts the 29th FIDIC Africa Infrastructure Conference

FIDIC Africa hosts Infrastructure Conferences annually in different parts of the continent. ACEZ in a new wave of change, decided to contribute more to the consulting engineering community in Africa and chose take up the mantle of hosting the 29th FIDIC Africa Infrastructure Conference under the theme ‘Green Infrastructure for the Future’.



29th FIDIC Africa Infrastructure Conference stage

‘Context’, ‘Relativity’ and ‘Value’ were key words that ignited the conference theme conceptualization. ACEZ, with Africa and the world at large in mind, aimed to host a platform that would allow diversified industry professionals associated with the built environment to convene and discuss matters affecting the globe. A key issue identified was climate change and the green agenda that has emerged as a result of it. Upon realization that the continent is endowed with great renewable energy potential and natural resources which, if well harnessed, could help solve climate change challenges, ACEZ decided to bring the conversation to the table to find African solutions, by Africans. They asked the questions: “Is Africa ready to take on green infrastructure for the future”? What are some of the challenges

associated with going green? and What nature of input is required? As such the adopted theme was 'Green Infrastructure for the Future'.

Livingstone, home to the mighty Mosi-Oa-Tunya (Victoria Falls) was home to over 200 delegates from 21st -24th May 2023 for the Conference. As per FIDIC tradition, Pre-Conference activities such as Future Leaders Symposium and Directors and Secretaries (DNS) Meeting took place on the first day. The 2-day conference activities followed. ACEZ however included an "Excursion" that would cater to both Engineers and non-Engineering delegates, to close off with a relaxing sight-seeing activity. ACEZ was adamant on inclusivity and thus, the Local Organisation Committee included individuals representing the ACEZ Body, Government Ministries, the main Engineering body, FLs and FIDIC Africa.

The net was cast wide with the intention of bringing in new players to the table for fresh ideas as well inviting a new audience to the FIDIC community. Promotion of the event was not restricted to Engineers. The Mayor of Livingstone, Her Worship the Lady Mayor Constance Muleabai who represented the Minister of Southern Province, Zambia, Hon. Cornelius Mweetwa, was the Guest of Honour at the Event. The Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, the line Ministry for ACEZ, was represented by Eng. Clive Khan.

Conference keynote speakers included Eng. Anthony Barry (FIDIC President), and Dr. Nelson Ogunshakin OBE (FIDIC CEO). The welcome notes were given by the ACEZ President, Eng. Oliver Makungu, the Engineering Institution of Zambia President (EIZ), Eng. Abel Ng'andu and FIDIC Africa President, Eng. Abe Thela. The FIDIC Board, inclusive of the FIDIC President Elect, Catherine Karakatsanis, FIDIC Executive Committee and several former FIDIC Africa presidents were among the officials present. It was ACEZ's intention to take a participatory approach on a local and international level. Suppliers of goods and services were approached and invited to be exhibitors at the Conferences as well as take part in conference proceedings.



FIDIC and FIDIC Board members, Guest of Honor and Local Organising Committee Members and delegates at the conference

ACEZ ensured that Engineers participated in various aspects of the conference. The paper selection was an area where Engineers in academia, industry and a future leader formed part of scientific peer review committee. All papers followed a blind peer review process of

selection which is not a common feat for FIDIC Conferences. The aim was to have a sound, informative, evidence - based set of papers to provide value to conference delegates. Segments with Moderators and a Panel Discussion, which also included a Legal Practitioner were also areas that encouraged participation.

The FLs were not exempted from conference participation. One session had a sub theme addressing the burgeoning youth population in Africa and the sustainability of the Consulting Engineering profession. FLs were among the Conference presenters, including an Engineering Student. Senior professionals attended the Symposium and an interactive activity which included FIDIC/FIDIC Africa Board representatives. The resounding message was that FLs needed to be active agents of change for the continent and MAs should consider succession plans to ensure sustainability of the profession.

Diversity, inclusion and engaging young engineers in the workplace played a vital role in the organizational process. FLs had significant roles in conference planning, execution and management. This included advertising, conference branding, and tech control. They were also given autonomy to organize the FL Symposium, with guidance. An interactive activity was conducted in which FLs formed groups to answer the questions:

- (1) What is your understanding of green infrastructure and how does it impact you as a FL?
- (2) What active role can you play as FLs towards promoting green infrastructure development?
- (3) How can the Consulting industry assist towards empowering FLs?

Each group was led by a senior professional and the groups were required to make a presentation on their resolutions. This activity promoted teamwork, active listening, mentorship, problem-solving, public speaking, team management, leadership and introspection



FIDIC Africa Future Leaders in attendance

The Main Conference sessions across two days included two keynote addresses and 13 paper presentations under the following sub-themes:

1. Building sustainable, resilient and viable Green Infrastructure;
2. Green construction methods and materials for sustainable future infrastructure development;
3. Global progresses addressing African burgeoning youth population and paradigm shift towards green economies; and
4. Integrated approach in planning and implementing Green Infrastructure.

Following two days of insightful, interactive, thought-provoking presentations and discussions, delegates at the Conference made resolutions/ recommendations on how to promote and implement the green infrastructure agenda as follows:

1. It is imperative for Africa to persist in investing in infrastructure that embraces adaptive green practices utilizing locally available resources.
2. The establishment of data repositories is crucial to elucidate Africa's position, diminish information asymmetry, and promote the flow of resources into Africa for the provision of green infrastructure.
3. The developed world bears the responsibility to act equitably by providing the resources required to redress the effects of their actions that have contributed to the climate crisis.
4. The Member Associations (MAs) and their members should become local champions in the adoption and promotion of green practices within the built environment.
5. Governments and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) should collaborate with MAs to augment awareness of green practices that will support the continent's infrastructure provision agenda.
6. The MAs should persist in upholding the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and morality in the provision of infrastructure.



FIDIC Africa 2023 Main conference session

As part of the conference package, an excursion was arranged to the Kazungula Bridge, one of Zambia's mega infrastructure projects in collaboration with Botswana. The tour was both

technical and recreational. This structure was particularly selected because some of ACEZ's MAs were part of project execution, future leaders inclusive. Its curvature and traversing of the waters that border Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe is a picturesque sight to behold. This bridge facilitated a one-stop border post on each end, was environmentally conscious and improved on border crossing formality processes.



Kazungula Bridge Excursion participants

It was concluded that Africa should create green solutions that are tailored to Africa's problems. ACEZ went above and beyond by providing recreational activities that enriched what was a technical, thought-provoking, introspective event with a truly African environment experience.

4. ACEZ attends FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference 2023

The annual FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference took place from 10th - 12th September 2023 at Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore, with 700+ attendees representing over 60 countries in attendance. Global leaders, influencers, key decision-makers from consulting engineering firms, contractors, governments, civic society, international organisations and financial institutions convened to debate and discuss key issues that our industry faces and offer their insights and opinions to an international audience.

The timing of the selection of the Conference theme, "Infrastructure – there's no time to lose: Sustainable global (and local) strategies to build a better world" was impeccable to spark new innovations and bring about positive change that will build economic and social prosperity and improve people's lives. This is crucial amid the growing economic and political uncertainty, and the challenge of the global climate crisis.

ACEZ had representation at this annual event for global players in the consulting engineering community. Pre-Conference programmes included events for FIDIC members to network and discuss the implementation of FIDIC's Strategic Priorities and future plans. Main gatherings included FIDIC General Assembly (GAM), FIDIC DNS Meeting and the FIDIC Future Leaders Symposium. The FIDIC Board and Committee Meetings also took place for the respective members.



ACEZ Secretariat at the FIDIC DNS Meeting

Conference Highlights:

i. New FIDIC President

Catherine Karakatsanis was ushered in as the new FIDIC President, following a vote by FIDIC member associations during the FIDIC General Assembly (GAM) on Sunday, 10 September 2023. She is the first woman to be president in FIDIC's 110 - year history.



Catherine Karakatsanis – New FIDIC President



Former FIDIC President Anthony Barry handing over to New President, Catherine Karakatsanis

ii. New FIDIC Board Members

FIDIC announced two new vice presidents to expand its global reach and help the organisation grow its influence in key strategic regions of the world. The two new vice presidents are existing FIDIC board members James Mwangi from Kenya and Alfredo Ingletti from Italy. Additionally, two new board members, whose term of office lasts for four years, were elected following a vote from FIDIC's global member associations. They are Prashant Kapila from India and Adam Bialachowski from Poland.



*Newly elected FIDIC Board Members,
Adam Bialachowski and Prashant Kapila*



FIDIC Board Members

iii. Future Leaders Symposium

FLs discussed how sustainability in relation to infrastructure is perceived in different ways in different parts of the world, making it a context depending issue. An example given was how Africa has an infrastructure deficit, and waste management issues arising from rapid urbanization as main issues. This differed from accounts of the Asia Pacific Region, whose infrastructure issues arise due to damage from frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes and monsoons among others.

The strategic theme to solve these issues was 'Local-global-local'. This would firstly entail, a local definition of sustainability that outlines the ideal conditions for a community or organization to live sustainably and thereafter, the identification of the interdependencies and relations present between the local and global community. For each local community to play its part within context of its needs, the global elements would then need to be subject to interpretation and replication at the local level once again, to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect local needs, norms, and values, thus ensuring that local actors find them relevant and meaningful.

The symposium progressed with a panel discussion led by the FIDIC Future Leaders Advisory Council (FLAC) Chairperson, Rodrigo Juarez. Panelists discussed their views on what role FLs have in driving the net zero agenda personally, in the work place and in the world. They stated that with the built environment being essential for shaping society, there is need for FLs to take the mantle of leadership with the aim of bringing about change through innovation and use of technology with vigour.

Conversation highlights included:

- ✓ We need to go for carbon negative and nature positive solutions
- ✓ We should advance human-centred design of infrastructure
- ✓ FLs should change the industry and the world with out-of-the box thinking
- ✓ We need to do what is right – have a clear code of conduct presented to employees
- ✓ We should incorporate Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) aspects into work policies and ultimately in projects, to take environmental, social and corporate governance issues into account.
- ✓ We should avoid corrupt practices
- ✓ We need to respect the cultural and economic differences of countries
- ✓ We have to break the chain, act differently – when we get into positions of power, we should not continue to use outdated, ineffective strategies that have been used before

- ✓ We should be more influential in leadership and decision making
- ✓ We should have direct talks with management about problems that directly affect our professional progression as FLs
- ✓ We have to show ourselves to society and government to let them know that we exist and can help solve societal problems
- ✓ We should make use of technology as the generation born in the digital era – make use of social media to get the right message across
- ✓ We need to be more involved in various engineering associations

The Future leaders were challenged to be bold, innovative, dynamic leaders in the industry.

iv. Main Conference Activities

The consensus at the Conference was that in order to map out strategies and solutions to address our biggest challenges, we would need to venture into new territories and think outside the box. At the conference opening ceremony, FIDIC Chief Executive Officer, Nelson Ogunshakin, mentioned that Engineers have technical knowledge and expertise, and are capable of finding solutions but it is equally important to consider the soft side of sustainability which involves engaging stakeholders to get them on board with the implementation process.



FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference Main Session

Key main conference highlights included:

- Infrastructure needs vary by region and sector; thus, a one-size fits all solution will not be possible. The variances are in economy, infrastructure needs, and CO2 emissions and their corresponding climate impacts.
- We need to determine what the gap in sustainable infrastructure is in various regions and the funding required to achieve net zero.
- We need to define a clear pathway to achieve net zero in each country and prioritise projects where maximum emission reductions can be achieved.
- International funding organisations should create a global funding platform to match funding opportunities for infrastructure projects in emerging economies – and build confidence and capacity in their governance.

- The industry also has a crucial role to play in achieving net zero. This includes engaging with policy makers, influential opinion formers and politicians to get positive messages across about the need for infrastructure investment.
- We have a symbiotic relationship with the politicians and as such, we need to curate our message for them as our audience, and package solutions that are mutually beneficial.
- We need to have a champion to carry our cause within the political space.
- We need to have natural allies.
- We should identify lessons learnt and use them to find ways to beat existential threats due to climate change through tried and tested examples, for continuous improvement.
- It is important to incorporate Environmental, Social Governance aspects (ESG) into projects and policies, as it takes a holistic view of sustainability beyond environmental issues



ACEZ representatives at the 2023 FIDIC Global International Conference



Participants in breakout session on Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication

v. Social Events

Local Colour Night

FIDIC 2023 Local Colour Night took place in Singapore at Chijmes Hall and delegates had the opportunity to sample a wide variety of delicious and authentic Singaporean dishes while enjoying traditional dance and music performances, showcasing the diverse cultural influences that make up Singapore's heritage.



African delegates at the Local Colour Night

FIDIC Gala Dinner and 110 Years Global Project Awards Ceremony

This year marks the 110th anniversary of FIDIC. As part of the celebration, FIDIC launched a celebratory publication entitled *Engineering the Future: 110 Years of FIDIC* to mark the landmark anniversary. The publication charts the history of the organisation and how it has left its mark on the engineering, construction and infrastructure industry through the work of its member associations and member firms.

The Gala Dinner was a black-tie event hosting the annual FIDIC Awards which recognise and celebrate the continued work and achievements of member associations. This was the close out ceremony for the annual FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference 2023



Gala and Awards Dinner seating



Raffles City Centre Ballroom layout for the Gala and Awards Dinner

5. ACEZ Scoops a 2023 FIDIC Member Association Excellence Award



ACEZ receiving the 2023 MA Excellence Award for Events and Conferences

The Association of Consulting Engineers of Zambia (ACEZ) scooped a Member Association (MA) Excellence Award for the year 2023. This will be ACEZ's second year in a row to win this prestigious award which recognises individuals, teams, campaigns, initiatives, publications and events and celebrates excellence in how FIDIC's global member associations serve their member firms and other stakeholders.

Speaking at the awards ceremony in Singapore, FIDIC president Tony Barry said: "These awards, now in their fourth year, showcase, reward and highlight the achievements and successes of FIDIC's global member associations and the work they do representing the global consulting industry. Our member associations have been playing an essential role in supporting their member firms over the past year and FIDIC is delighted to be recognising their brilliant work."

Following a record number of entries in the competition this year, the 2023 MA Excellence Awards saw prizes presented across five categories as follows.

- Diversity and Inclusion Initiative.
- Events and Conferences.
- Significant or Outstanding Achievement.
- Advocacy/Lobbying Campaign.
- Industry Collaboration.

In the Events and Conferences category the judges named a winner and a special recognition. The winner was the ACEZ for their organisation of the 29th FIDIC Africa Infrastructure Conference 2023. The winning entry had wowed the judges for a world class event that was seriously well-run, had brilliant use of technology in real time and saw more than 50 scientific papers submitted. Brilliant social events brought the industry together and the judges said this was an exemplar of how to run a FIDIC regional conference.

The Award was presented to the ACEZ Secretariat. The team was led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mrs. Chituwa Sinkala Chulu accompanied by Eng. Pauline Phiri and Mrs. Namwila Tembo Chibwe. ACEZ certainly made Zambia's presence known on a global stage and once again, Africa was well represented by one of its FIDIC Regional Group Member Associations.



ACEZ representation at the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony



MA Excellence Award - ACEZ



ACEZ appreciation of the MA Excellence Award



Team Zambia with the ACEZ MA Excellence Award

6. ACEZ hosts its first webinar

The Association hosted its first of many webinars to come. Participation was free and the topic of discussion was *"The Journey Towards a Dispute Free Project in the Construction Industry: The origins, current best practices of resolution and trending future methods."*

With multiple parties involved in construction projects, disputes are bound to arise. If these disputes are not resolved quickly and impartially, it may lead to project delays which will increase costs and prolong projects. The aim of this webinar was to discuss the common challenges experienced in construction projects and how best to navigate them through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods.

The Webinar was presented by Eng. Misheck Daka Snr., a Civil Engineer and Construction Law Specialist, who has over 40 years of experience in highway, civil/structural engineering and construction administration. He is an accredited arbitrator with Chartered Institute of Arbitration (CI Arb) and has a post graduate degree in Construction Law, Adjudication and Arbitration. He is also the Zambia Country Representative on the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation (DRBF).



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS OF ZAMBIA

presents:

FREE WEBINAR

LIVE



THE JOURNEY TOWARDS A DISPUTE FREE PROJECT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY:

*The Origins, Current best practices
of resolution and trending future
methods*



Thursday
16 November, 2023



From
16:00HRS - 17:00HRS

Via



zoom



ENG. MISHECK DAKA

Zulu Burrow Consulting Limited



info@acez.co.zm

Key webinar highlights

Participants were taken on a journey of how dispute resolution has evolved over the years and what ADR methods are applied today.

i. Origins of disputes

Eng. Daka began with the history of dispute resolution, comprising of litigation, which was time consuming and expensive, ultimately frustrating the industry. This led to Arbitration as the preferred ADR method. The Construction industry however, still sought for a quicker and more efficient way to resolve disputes in order to avoid delayed project execution for long periods of time while awaiting a decision to be made. Adjudication emerged as a faster impartial resolution that would allow contracts to continue.

ii. Best practices of resolution and trending methods

The presenter mentioned that in order to attempt to achieve a dispute free project, dispute resolution practices should be applied at all stages of the project. Current best practices are

encouraged at pre-contract stage, contract execution stage and through the appointment of a Dispute Board (DB) and applied as follows:

- **Pre-Contract Stage** – This includes incorporating dispute resolution in design, through risk analysis, procurement methods and selection of tenders as well as provision of escrow bid documents.
- **Contract Execution stage** – During this stage, contract documents can be used as dispute avoidance tools by making use of early warning clauses and notices, deeming provisions and time bars, and following contractual procedures.
- **Dispute Board** – Appointing a board of impartial professionals at the commencement of the project, who will follow construction progress and assist in resolving disputes throughout the project duration when they do arise is a trending practice. The boards can be ad hoc or standing, depending on the nature and duration of the project. The DB process has resulted in a very high rate of success in resolving disputes without litigation or arbitration, with a resolution rate to date of 85-98%.

Eng. Daka concluded by advising that appointing adjudicators within the confines of the contract is beneficial to all parties and we need to ensure that the provisions of the contract are adhered to in order to avoid disputes.

The webinar had 162 participants out of 214 who registered. It was a topic much appreciated by participants who have developed a keen interest in Dispute Resolution methods. ACEZ intends to host more webinars with topics that are relevant to the industry in the local and international context.

7. ACEZ Design Thinking Workshop for Women in the Built Environment

ACEZ held a first of its kind workshop, with the promotion of innovation and creativity in women in the built environment taking centre stage. Female Engineers, Architects and Quantity Surveyors took part in the thought-provoking, Human-Centred Design (HCD) themed workshop which took place on 22nd November 2023 at the Urban Hotel Lusaka.



Design thinking workshop facilitators and participants

In an effort to further elevate the standards of engineering excellence, ACEZ sought to introduce HCD principles into its members' practices. The intention was to introduce participants to design thinking concepts derived from HCD such as Empathizing, Defining, Ideating, Prototyping and Testing. The introduction of HCD principles aligns with ACEZ's commitment to global best practices and its mission to enhance the quality and efficacy of its members' services. By adopting a human-centred ethos, ACEZ aims to empower its members to create engineering solutions that resonate with end-users, enhance user experiences, and address complex challenges in innovative ways. The workshop was facilitated by Bongo Hive Consult ,a digital and corporate innovation consulting firm providing custom interventions to startups, small growth businesses and corporates



ACEZ Secretariat and Bongo Hive Consult

Target Group

Obvious discussions surrounding the male-dominant nature of the engineering field continuously take centre stage when it comes to the subject of women in the built environment. Additional, equally important issues such as gendered tasking, stereotyping and unconscious biases (i.e., women being less technically competent or women excelling at administrative and community-building tasks) usually take a back seat and yet they make it difficult for women to succeed in the field. ACEZ realized that networking opportunities to address such issues are limited, and how the onus was on the engineering community to create more opportunities for women to succeed and thrive in the industry

Women in the built environment were selected as the target group for this workshop primarily because of the male-dominated nature of the industry. By thinking about seeing the world through different eyes in comparison to the vast majority, it brings in a different opinion and perspective to problem solving and promotes diversity. With this particular workshop, the purpose was to challenge the participants to see empathy, which women are naturally accustomed to, as a gateway to HCD, and how it ultimately results in innovative problem solving.



Team building and collaboration exercise among participants

Learning Outcomes

The workshop was anchored on teaching built environment professionals to not just be technically proficient, but to also prioritise the human element in their projects. The approach included engagement and discussions among participants to ingrain collaborative thinking and teamwork, with real-life case studies. Participants incorporated the iterative HCD process in brainstorming sessions aimed at finding relevant, holistic solutions for everyday problems in the built environment.



Defining and ideating exercise as human centred design concepts



Prototyping session in the workshop



Testing session in the workshop

In closing, Eng. Grace Mutembo, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Road Development Agency(RDA) delivered a heartfelt keynote address highlighting the importance of having more programs and initiatives that build on skills of women, who are greatly affected when it comes to societal issues. It was an insightful, thought-provoking, creative thinking workshop which was appreciated by attendees.



Eng. Grace Mutembo, CEO, Road Development Agency

8. Conclusion

As ACEZ peers over the 2024 horizon, we foresee a future filled with endless possibilities for business and professional growth of our members and the consulting engineering community at large.

CONTACT US



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