
KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA

Council Meetings and Activities

Four council meetings were held since issuance of the News letter for the first quarter. The discussions were held on following items.

- Adjudicator Training Programme
- Journal
- AGM & Technical Sessions
- Seminar on EPC Contracts
- Public Lectures
- Membership Directory
- Corporate Plan
- Liaison with Professional & Government Institutions
- Meeting with Chairman CECB
- ACESL Website
- TCDPAP Conference 2012
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Adjudicator Training Programmes

The council had discussions and subsequently put on hold an adjudicator training programme for the ACESL members. It is of the view that a proper adjudicator training session is essential before establishment of a Register of Adjudicators. The programme may have to be conducted for several days which will include a mock adjudication to end the session. The qualified & experienced members may also be appointed to form a Panel of ACESL adjudicators. Such a venture needs local and foreign resource persons in order to make it a success. Hence the council is looking for funding required for same as the session will cost significantly especially to meet costs of using the services of foreign resource persons, preparation of hand outs etc. Assistance from able members and member firms to make this event a success is sought. Member firms can benefit immensely by displaying banners and their brochures during the session..

Journal

For the very first time a Journal of the ACESL will be published in conjunction with the Technical Sessions and AGM to be held in December 2010. **All members are kindly requested to endeavour to submit articles for the journal**, which portray the aims and objectives of the association. Papers may be submitted individually or by the respective companies. More details will follow.

AGM & Technical Sessions

Following themes are proposed for the annual Technical Sessions

- * Role of Consulting engineers in Northern Area Development
- * Procurement/ Marketing/ Export of Consultancy Services.

Members are requested to suggest more topics in order to select the best.

Seminar on EPC Contracts

This seminar with a popular theme is bound to attract much attention and may be opened to participation by members of Fellow Organisations in neighbouring SAARC countries. The assistance of major Technically Oriented Corporations in Sri Lanka will also be requested. It is also hoped that a highly experienced Resource Person from one of the International Consultants operating in Sri Lanka will conduct the Seminar. The seminar will be held on 1st October 2010 at a 5 Star hotel as a full day event.

Public Lectures

The first lecture in this series was held in 6th May'10 on 'Hydropower Development in Sri Lanka' by Eng. Tushara Wickremaratne, Addl. GM (Water resources) CECB.. The speaker covered the subject in great detail

supported by numerous slides in a Power Point Presentation.

The second lecture on “Export of Technological Services- Sri Lanka should Catch up” was delivered by Eng. Malith Mendis, Chief Executive Director, Lanka Hydraulics Ltd, on 30th June at the Wimalasurendra Auditorium of the IESL.

The audience for both sessions consisted of very senior engineers from many technical Government and Private Organisations. A very lively Question and Answer Session wrapped up the day’s proceedings. President Eng. Dr. Mervyn Gunasekera chaired the meetings while Honorary Secretary Eng. J.Karunaratne proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Membership Directory

Questionnaires requesting particulars of individual members and member firms have been sent on many occasions and those who have not yet replied should do so immediately. The directory with available data on 30th June’10 will be compiled and published in July’10.

Corporate Plan

Council had several rounds of discussion to develop a corporate plan for the ACESL. The corporate plan will outline the programmes for the next 3 to 5 years.

Liaison with Professional & Government Institutions

Congratulatory letters have been sent to all appointed ministers & follow up actions will start soon.

Meeting with Chairman CECB

The council decided that in order to fruitfully improve ACESL’s contribution to Sri Lanka’s economy, as an initial step to hold discussions with the Chairman C.E.C.B. on the following matters

- Thank Chairman for the assistance given to-date
- Outsourcing of its consultancy services to ACESL members.
- Invite him for the ‘EPC Contracts’ seminar to serve as a resource person as he was the pioneer in adopting EPC construction procedures in Local projects

ACESL Website

Evaluation of proposals received is almost complete and the assignment will be awarded to a suitable bidder soon.

TCDPAP Conference

Eng. J Karunaratne, Honorary secretary & Eng. S A U D C Siriwardena attended the TCDPAP (Technical Corporation Development Programme in Asia Pacific) international conference held in Hanoi Vietnam from 14th to 17th April 2010. Eng. J Karunaratne Presented a paper on ‘Meeting the Challenges of Consultancy Business by Innovative Approaches’

Further Honorary Secretary attended the TCDPAP council meeting held on 15th April 2010 as the Country Representative. He was successful in obtaining the Council’s consent to hold the TCDPAP international conference for 2012 in Sri Lanka. TCDPAP Conference 2011 will be held in Malaysia.

FIDIC NEWS

Registrations are open for the FIDIC conference in New Delhi, taking place from 19-22 September. FIDIC looks forward to strong delegations from all member associations.

FIDIC training courses took place in Jordan, Serbia, Botswana, India, Latvia, Qatar, Belgium and Abu Dhabi. Please check the FIDIC website for upcoming events. To meet the increased demand for FIDIC training, potential trainers are being identified and put through suitable training in order to become accredited as FIDIC trainers.

FIDIC Integrity Management Committee met in Geneva, in order to revise FIDIC’s Business Integrity Management System (BIMS). This is being undertaken, to develop a new strategy for integrity management for the consulting engineering industry.

The FIDIC President, MD and EC member attended the successful GAMA conference held in Mombasa and spoke about the state of the global industry, and the need for engineers to become more involved in political debate and policy development. A post conference workshop highlighted new opportunities for public/private investment in African infrastructure. A number of new African associations are being approached for

membership of FIDIC and GAMA.

Intensive discussions took place with Indian colleagues in Delhi, in order to finalise arrangements for the action packed FIDIC conference in September 2010. A range of national and international speakers will explore Innovation as the “Way Forward”.

FIDIC/EFCA Task Force met and reached broad agreement on a new proposal for cooperation aimed at streamlining activities for the industry in Europe, and enabling FIDIC greater representation in Europe. The proposal will be presented to the General Assembly later in the year for ratification.

Further discussions took place with colleagues in Tunisia to plan the FIDIC 2011 conference to be held in Tunis from 18-21 September 2011. A strong African flavour is envisaged, with GAMA to join forces with FIDIC for this special event. Thinking Global as well as Local with regard to resources is a vital issue for the industry.

FIDIC 2013 Organising Committee met in Madrid to develop a strategy for the centenary event of FIDIC being held in Barcelona in September 2013. A number of FIDIC Member Associations are to be contacted shortly to assist in the planning of this significant event. Henning Therkelson from Denmark was appointed to chair the important Capacity Building Committee, after the recent retirement of Bayo Adeola from Nigeria. The committee is tasked with reviewing its Terms of Reference in order to concentrate on FIDIC’s training tools and guidelines, as well as new strategies for the future needs of the industry.

The status of several member associations is being reviewed as a result of changes to internal structures. Meantime, a FIDIC subscription task force is assessing a number of models, with the aim of presenting to FIDIC members a proposal for a more equitable distribution of subscription fees. A report is expected at the FIDIC conference in September.

Enrolement of New Members

Following Engineers were enrolled as members since April 2010.

Membership No.	Name
MP 106	Eng. B A P U Bulathsinghe

MP 107 Eng M L Christie Alwis

MP 108 Eng. M H Hussein

MP 109 Eng. U W Rodrigo

PLANET UNDER STRESS –MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The human being is an animal that has moved out of ecological balance with the environment. Humankind is a wasteful killer and a despoiler of other life on the planet. This normal and apparently acceptable behavior has been licensed by a belief that our use of the Earth’s Resources is God-given, and encouraged by an economic system that sympathises short term profit as a benefit. We are only slowly learning to put a real cost on the resources we consume, and the wastes we produce. Humankind is now dominant in effecting perhaps irreversible change on the Earth’s surface, and may be we do not know enough to decide how to run this planet. We are forcing our will upon it, using ever depleting resources and increasing waste discharge., while at the same time claiming that we must aim for “sustainable development, which has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This forces us to consider if the present level of resources and waste production can be sustained, to question the concept of growth economics, and to admit that it would be impossible to extend current Western Standards of living to the world as a whole.

It seems that there are two major forces at work preventing us from attaining true Global Sustainability.:

- (1) Population growth seems to be the single most important factor in increasing environment stress, including depletion of materials and energy resources and a runaway increase in solid, liquid, gaseous, and heat waste. We are currently adding one billion to the population of the world every eleven years. . Most of the resources and most of the waste produced are due to the activities of a relatively small proportion of the total population. In certain areas of the world people are reproducing much more rapidly than in the West, but a

Western baby will drive a car when it grows up, and will use resources and produce waste a hundred to five hundred times more than many of the babies born in the Third World. Recent studies suggest that with current dietary patterns we have reached or even exceeded the carrying capacity of the globe in population. .

- (2) Our use of the Fossil Fuels continues to grow. If the relative decline in the use of petroleum products as fuel continues, it will be more than offset by an increase in coal burning, which will further increase the greenhouse gases and particulates in the atmosphere. That in turn will increase the warming effect, which has already started. Bearing in mind the inevitable change in climate and rise in sea level that results from warming, how much more can we accept?

Scientists can point out and measure many of the changes taking place in our immediate environment and our own lives. But it will take very much more than science to change our current system, and persuade us to learn to live in balance with Earth's ecosystem. All people on Earth are in this together, and so must find a joint solution. It is too late to build walls around, or put roofs over regions of the world. The problems are exclusively global, and the solutions must be also. We are now faced with a task that is more difficult than anything we have ever contemplated: to decide how we may continue to live on this small planet. Any departure from ecological balance that destroys most of the remaining life on earth – and the big killing is under way – will mean that we are doomed to a similar fate. In other words, it is imperative that we learn to live in balance with all of earth's complexities. Humankind has never before been faced so urgently with such a challenge - but face it we must - or life on this planet, for human beings may become unsupportable.

(By kind courtesy of "PLANET UNDER STRESS" – Royal Society of Canada)

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General Description

Stems Consultants (Pte) Ltd is a company of Engineering and Building Consultants offering consultancy services, in Civil and Structural Engineering established in 1983.

The Directors of the Firm are Chartered Structural/Civil Engineers having extensive experience in the design of buildings and civil engineering structures.

Senior Electrical, Mechanical, Building Services, Highway and Geotechnical Engineers, Architects and Quantity Surveyors provide consultancy services in other specialized disciplines, as required.

SERVICES

PROJECT PREPARATION – Preliminary and detail designs, tender documents and Tender Evaluations

CONSTRUCTION IMPLEMENTATION

Construction Management, Project Management, Quality Control and Site Supervision.

SPECIALIZATION

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INPUTS IN BUILDINGS – Residential, Industrial, Office, Commercial, Sports and Recreation and Communication.

ARCHITECTURAL, BUILDING SERVICES, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, GEOTECHNICAL AND QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES RELATED TO BUILDINGS