



The GCEA News

July 2017

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The FIDIC –GAMA 2017 Conference in perspective

The 24th Annual FIDIC-GAMA Conference was held from May 7- 10 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Conference had the theme “African Partnership for Sustainable Growth”

The primary aim of the Conference was to address some of the challenges associated with Africa’s Infrastructure under-development, inter alia, owing to lack of investments, maintenance and replacements.

The secondary aim was related to improving connectivity of Railways, Ports, Airports, National Roads, Water and Energy, as catalysts of Sustainable Growth and Development of countries across the continent, starting with 16 GAMA countries.

Some keynote speakers were given the platform to present their perspectives on establishing broader partnerships with infrastructure owners and governments across Africa.

ATTENDANCE

The Conference was attended by delegates from 16 Member Countries, government officials from all three spheres of government (National, Provincial and Local), State Owned Entities, funding agencies, contractors, suppliers of construction equipment and materials, investors and other stakeholders in the built-environment from the public and private sectors to share ideas on best practices.

The Ghana delegation to the Conference numbered 26, including accompanying persons.

PRESENTATIONS

There were eighteen (18) presentations at the Conference from the various member countries on the following topics:

- Engineering Services
- Engineering Skills
- Water & Energy

Programmes

The Young Professionals Programme

The Young Professionals Congress Programme was held on Sunday 6th May 2017, at the CTICC Conference room.

For the first time in the history of GAMA YPF, a whole day was dedicated by GAMA and the LOC, for the YP Congress, with full sponsorship.

Thirteen (13) presentations were made at the YP Congress, including a special session termed, “YPF and GAMA Executive Committee Meeting,” which was the first of its kind, where YPs engaged GAMA Executive Committee Members on issues of mutual concern.

The Deputy Chair of GAMA YPF, Ms Jeshika Ramchand was confirmed the new Chair for GAMA Young Professional Forum (YPF).

The CESA President, Lynne Pretorius, gave the closing remarks and set out the way forward. She tasked YPs to remain focused and also interrogate the challenges and opportunities confronting the Consulting Engineering industry.

Continuation of The FIDIC –GAMA 2017 Conference in perspective

GAMA PRESIDENTS, DIRECTORS AND SECRETARIES PROGRAMME

For the first time in the history of GAMA Conference, The Presidents, Directors and Secretaries Meeting was held during the Conference.

The meeting was chaired by the GAMA President, Ing Kofi Asare-Yeboah.

The meeting which was held on 6th May, 2017 sought to share ideas on how to sustain the Member Associations (MAs). It was attended by representatives from the 16 member countries.

Representatives from Member Associations took turns to share their challenges relating to the running of FIDIC Training Courses, Payment of Subscription Fees, Royalties, etc.

HOSTING OF GAMA SECRETARIAT

It was reported that the GAMA Secretariat had received 2 submissions from Kenya and South Africa to host the Secretariat.

The new host will be announced in due course.

HOSTING OF FIDIC-GAMA CONFERENCE IN 2018 AND 2019

It was announced that Mali would be hosting the FIDIC-GAMA Conference in 2018 while Uganda hosts it in 2019. The Host country is expected to make a presentation. The Government of Mali has promised to support Mali in hosting the 2018 Conference. Host countries are required to pay US\$5,000 to GAMA. 50% of the amount should be paid on or before Conference. The GAMA Secretary will attend the Conference on host country's ticket and also be paid per diem. The Theme of the Conference should be discussed with GAMA for approval.

Members were encouraged to invite Engineers from neighbouring countries even if they are not members of GAMA.

Social Events

The African Colour Night was held on 8th May while the Gala Night was held on May 9, at the Ratanga Junction. GAMA also organized tours for both delegates and accompanying persons.

Closure

The Conference came to a close on May 9, 2017.

Overall, the Conference was successfully organised and some delegates expressed the view that their expectations were fully met.

Conference in pictures



GCEA Visits the Minister of Railways & Development

As part of the its outreach programme a six member delegation of the Association led by the President, Ing Albert Ogyiri paid a courtesy call on the Honourable Minister of Railway Development Mr. Joe Ghartey on 24th May 2017.



A section of the members at the meeting with the Minister of Railway Devt. From Right: Hon. Joe Ghartey, Ing Albert Ogyiri, Ing Isaac Addai and Mrs Elaine Asare

The purpose of the visit was to congratulate him on his appointment and also to assure him of GCEA members' capability to partner the Government in undertaking delivery of railway infrastructure.

Present at the meeting were;

Ing Albert A. Ogyiri, President
Ing Isaac Addai, Vice President
Ing J. N. Okyere, Treasurer
Ing K. Osafo-Affum, Member
Ing (Mrs) Nana Akua Brenya Boateng, Member

Also Present were;

Mr. Sisi Ocran, Director of Policy Planning, MRD
Ms Naa Kwarley Oteng-Boadu, Executive Assistant, MRD
Mr. Kwaku Keddey, Special Assistant, MRD

In his remarks the Hon. Minister stated that the Government was committed to working with the indigenous firms to develop the railway sector. Adding that this will be the single largest project in the next four years.

He said the Ministry has three working areas with the first being the Institutional Review.

The Honourable Minister said that Government had put aside 518 million cedis to develop the Railway Sector.

The Minister took the Council through the development plan and he explained that the Ministry was

planning to strengthen the narrow gauge to Tarkwa. Currently, there is an 84 kilometre contract to build railway line from Accra to Akosombo through a tunnel where it will go across the river after 70 kilometres.

There is also a plan to build a 700 kilometre rail line from Kumasi to Paga.

The Minister requested that every member of GCEA to submit an expression of interest to the Ministry.

The Ministry is also looking at developing new areas like the Volta and the Ashanti Regions.

He also requested for a Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation between the Ministry and GCEA.

GCEA Members Attend French Training Course



It will be recalled that at the last General Meeting held in April 2016, there was a proposal that the Secretariat should

arrange for a local French Language Training Course to enable members access the opportunities in the sub-region.

We are happy to announce that the first batch of 11 nominees from Associated Consultants, ABP Consult and Engineering Services Provision Company, have started the French course at Alliance Francaise on 4th July 2017 .

They are expected to finish the training in December 2017.

FIDIC Training Courses 2017

The first of the 2017 FIDIC Training Courses was held in June, from 8 to the 15. Attendance for EPC/ Turnkey Training was 37 while the modules 1 & 2 had 49 participants. The Trainer was Mr. Bogdan Oprea. The training was successful.

In-house FIDIC Training for Ghana Airport Company

The Secretariat organized In-house FIDIC Training for Ghana Airport Company Ltd. from 10th to 19th July, 2017.

The Trainer, Mr. Robert Werth, took the participants through the Modules 1 to 4.

The participants were selected from the various departments such as Engineering, Facilities, Procurement, Legal, Audit and Commercial.

Officials of the Company were very happy with the programme and are planning to have another one next year for another batch of staff.

Activities of the Committees of the Council

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee wrote letters to the various Ministries with a request to meet with the Ministers to discuss important matters affecting the Association

The Committee has had successful meetings with the following Ministries;

1. Ministry of Roads and Highways
2. Ministry of Energy
3. Ministry of Transport
4. Ministry of Aviation
5. Ministry of Railway Development

However, the Committee has not been able to meet with the following Ministries yet;

1. Ministry of Communication
1. Ministry of Works and Housing
2. Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources

Professional Ethics Committee

The Professional Ethics Committee has drafted Professional Fee Charges to be discussed at the Council level. Rates have been approved pending onward discussion with the Minister of Works and Housing, Hon. Atta Kyea.

Committee has suggested that GCEA adopts International practice for categorization of firms.

Membership Committee

The Committee's responsibility is to bring more members into the Association.

Advertisement was placed in the Daily Graphic Newspaper to invite Consulting Engineering Firms to register. This move has attracted a few firms to register to be part of GCEA.

For those who do not meet the requirement, the committee in consultation with the council have created a "Probationary Member" category to include them until they are eligible.

The Committee is still pursuing inactive members to become active.

Publication Committee

The Publication Committee in line with its mandate has produced one publication of the Newsletter this year, publishing all GCEA and FIDIC events., including FIDIC Conference, GAMA Conference, FIDIC and Local Training Courses, etc.

The Committee is doing a follow up for advertisements from Engineering companies and member firms.

Young Professionals Committee

The Young Professional Committee organized a Cocktail Meeting on February 17, 2017 to encourage participation.

Members have taken up responsibilities to make the YP's more active.

Training Committee

FIDIC Training Courses

The Training Committee has had two successful FIDIC Training Programmes this year. The Modules 3 & 4 will be held in November 2017.

The First Training EPC/Turnkey and Modules 1 & 2 were held in June 2017 while the Modules 1- 4 were organized for Ghana Airport Company Limited at their premises.

French Training Course

The Committee in collaboration with Alliance Francaise has organized a French Training Course aimed at equipping members to take advantage of the opportunities in the sub-region.

The Committee also intends to run training programmes on;

- A. How to run a Consultancy Firm
- B. Proper Filing of Taxes and Financial Management

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A four member Committee has been constituted to see to the organization of the 2017 Annual General Meeting this December 2017. Ing K. Osafo Affum is the chair of the committee.

Committee members Include;

- i. Ing K. Osafo Affum, Chair
- ii. Ing Festus Odametey, Member
- iii. Ing (Mrs) Nana Akua Brenya Boateng, Member
- iv. Ing (Mrs) Benedicta Acherekoh, Member

Dubbed GCEA Week, the Annual General Meeting will be celebrated over a period of 3 days; 6th,7th and 8th December 2017, at the Engineers Centre.

GAMA Executive Committee

The following persons have been appointed to serve on the GAMA Executive Working Committee in the various capacities;

Ing. David Sackey - Growth & Business Development

Ing. Festus Odametey – Communication and Conferences

Ing Albert Viala—Standards

Ing Isaac Addai—Capacity Building

Ing S.M. Asiedu– Integrity, Ethics, Professional Practice.

Members' Post

GCEA is happy to announce the arrival of little Kojo Anowie, born to Ing (Mrs) Jane Naki Tetteh Anowie of Associated Consultants.

Little Kojo was born on July 10, 2017, weighing 3.7 pounds.